

Document Information Form

Mine Number: C/007/006

File Name: Incoming

To: DOGM

From:

Person N/A.

Company PLATEAU MINING COMPANY

Date Sent: JANUARY 26, 1979

Explanation:

REGION V ON-SITE INSPECTION

cc:

File in: C/007/006, Incoming

Refer to:

- Confidential
- Shelf
- Expandable

Date _____ For additional information

CT-007-066
R
MAW
TJS
JMY
JWS



REGION V ON-SITE INSPECTION

Plateau Mining Company
Starpoint 1 & 2

DATE: 9 January 1979
TIME: 10:30 AM - 6:00 PM
WEATHER: Cloudy and cold, with snow cover
COUNTY & STATE: Carbon County, Utah
STATE PERMIT NO.: ACT/007/006
COMPANY OFFICIAL: Steve Rigby
STATE OFFICIALS: Ron Daniels, Mary Ann Wright
OSM OFFICIAL: Larry Damrau

GENERAL COMMENTS

Prior to the on-site inspection, a meeting of company, State and Federal personnel was held to observe and discuss the possible raptor nest sites discovered near the mine area. The following persons from the agencies listed, were present: Steve Rigby - Plateau Mining Co.; Ron Daniels & Mary Ann Wright - State Division of Oil, Gas and Mining; Larry Dalton - State Division of Wildlife; Mark Mackiewicz - BIM; Clark Johnson and Ron Joseph - Federal Fish and Wildlife Service; Larry Damrau - OSM.

The sites were observed from access/haulroads within the mine area. The first nest observed, was located north of the mining area among a formation of sandstone ~~outcroppings~~. The second ^{possible} nest area existed at a much higher elevation south and west of the Starpoint #2 portal near the head of the canyon. Due to the poor visibility and the distance from the observation point I was not able to visually locate the nest on the south canyon wall above the #2 portal. (Neither has anyone else been able to) *MMW*

It was agreed upon by the representatives present that the first nest observed within the sandstone outcrop north of the mining area is definitely a raptor nest. At the present time, there is insufficient data available to determine the raptor species (if any) that may utilize the present nest. If a nest site is present above the #2 portal, at the present time there is insufficient evidence to determine whether the nest would be raptor in origin or use.

COMPLIANCE WITH INTERIM REGULATIONS

715.11 General Obligations

The following plans and/or approved permits were observed at the mine site: State Regulatory mining plan, file number ACT/007/006; MSHA Refuse perm 0009.

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File in:
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ACT-007-006
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COMPLIANCE WITH INTERIM REGULATIONS

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The following plans and/or approved permits were observed at the mine site: State Regulatory mining plan, file number ACT/007/006; MSHA Refuse permits No.s. 1211-UT-0008 and 1211-UT-0009.

A hydrology and subsidence plan submitted to U.S.G.S. on 4 April, 1978 had no approval issued. A reply from U.S.G.S. dated 11 July, 1978 requesting additional information from the company was the latest correspondence available concerning the above plan.

715.11 The topo-map (showing the present haulroad, the proposed route to comply with office of surface mining guidelines, and a proposed new road, copies of which were submitted by the company during the Hearing before the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining on 3 May 1978) was observed. Although no design criteria on the proposed new road was available and no approval given, the company has initiated construction of the proposed new haulroad. The present area of construction is not the same as delineated on the above mentioned topo-map.

717.12 Signs and Markers

A mine identification sign was observed at the point of access onto the mined area. The identification number of the current State mining and reclamation permit (ACT/007/006) as well as the telephone number of the permittee was absent from the observed sign.

717.14 Backfilling & Grading

Although the authorized fill area produced from end-dumping on the down-slope at the face-up of Starpoint #2 portal has been constructed to insure a degree of stability, the static safety factor of the fill has not been calculated to insure compliance with Section 717.14.

Construction of the unauthorized haulroad on the north side of the canyon is occurring on slopes steeper than 20 (twenty) degrees. The slope was measured at 30 (thirty) degrees. The earth, rock and other waste materials formed during the construction of the road is being deposited on the down-slope below the road cut to achieve the desired width of the road. This practice is in violation of regulation 717.14(c).

717.15 Disposal of Spoil and Waste

The company is presently utilizing two areas for disposal of tippel waste. One area directly east of the present mine office within Sec. 10-T15S-R8E is approved by MSHA Permit No. 1211-UT-0008. No new area is being affected at the present time. At this area, disposal operation consists of increasing the elevation of waste material rather than increasing area. Mr. Rigby stated that the company plans on covering the waste material with topsoil following abandonment of disposal operations but he was not sure just where the material to cover the waste would come from. The mining and reclamation plan also states that the material will be covered, but it does not state where the material will be obtained, nor the depth at which the material will be deposited. 30CFR standards require waste material to be covered with a minimum of four (4) feet of nontoxic and noncombustible material (717.14(e)). The second area which was being utilized for tippel waste disposal, during the time of inspection, is located in the SE1/4 Section 9-T15S-R8E

and the NEL/4 Sec. 16-T15^S-R8E. Plans to establish a valley fill operation at the site were submitted to MSHA November 6, 1978. Presently, MSHA has not approved the plans, although the company has already established waste disposal operations on the area. No topsoil removal and segregation operations had occurred prior to the area being affected. Certification of fill by a registered professional engineer was not available at the mine site, and the inspection of fill during critical periods or at least quarterly by a registered engineer or qualified professional specialist providing a certified report had not been accomplished as required under 30 CFR regulation 715.15(b)(12).

717.17 Protection of the Hydrologic System

A hydrology and subsidence plan was submitted to U.S.G.S. 4 April 1978. Underground water was not addressed in the plan. U.S.G.S. requested additional material from the company in a letter dated 11 July 1978. To date, the company does not possess an approved hydrologic monitoring plan.

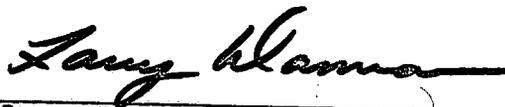
All surface drainage from the disturbed area does not pass through sedimentation controls structures prior to leaving the permit area, as required in Section 717.17(a).

717.20 Topsoil Handling & Revegetation

No topsoil removal operations have occurred on disturbed areas prior to disturbance. This is in violation of Section 717.20(a).

SUMMARY

Each of the aspects addressed above, are considered to be in violation of the Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement Provisions, Part 717. The State Regulatory Authority is initiating enforcement action concerning the violations.



Larry Damrau
Reclamation Specialist