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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING

Reclamation and Enforcement

BROOKS TOWERS

1020 15TH STREET

DENVER, COLORADO 80202

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

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10-6-80
SUR.

Mr. Floyd J. Tucker
Executive Vice President and
General Manager
P.O. Drawer PMC
Price, Utah 84501

Dear Mr. Tucker:

By letter dated July 29, 1980, Plateau Mining Company made a request for the extension of entries in the Mudwater Lease (Federal Lease U-37045). In response to your request, I asked the State Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining, the Manti LaSal National Forest, and the U.S. Geological Survey for their recommendations on issuance of an additional extension into the Mudwater Lease. OSM has received positive indications from these agencies with respect to approval of your requested extension. One condition of my March 12, 1980 approval was that all surface facilities be in compliance with applicable regulations. It is my understanding from our Inspection and Enforcement Division that the Starpoint Mines have achieved on-the-ground compliance.

Based on the above, I approve in concept of your requested extension of entries in the Mudwater Lease. However, since your request of July 29, 1980, contained no specified boundaries for the extension, I cannot grant final approval until such time as OSM has received and approved a map delineating the extent of proposed mining in the Mudwater Lease. I suggest that one year of mining may be appropriate for calculating the extent of mining in this area.

OSM, in consultation with the U.S. Geological Survey and the Manti LaSal National Forest, has also reviewed your March, 1980 mine plan. After this review, we find that the plan is not complete. Deficiencies are listed in Attachment I. In addition, before OSM can continue with the review of your mine plan, the mine plan must be updated to produce an integrated discussion of all activities begin undertaken at the Starpoint Mines. The mine plan includes no discussion of mining in the Mudwater Lease, breakouts in Mudwater Canyon nor Seeley Canyon, nor is there discussion of the extension of the refuse pile. OSM requests that all these modifications be integrated into a comprehensive mine plan.

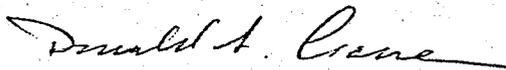
Given the accidental nature of the breakout in Mudwater Canyon, I approve the breakout subject to the stipulations of Attachment II. I also approve your plan proposal for the Seeley Canyon breakouts subject to stipulations in Attachment II.

After reviewing your runoff control plan, we find that there are several deficiencies (see Attachment III). Again, these new modifications must be integrated with your overall mine plan.

We have not yet finalized our review of your request for the refuse pile extension, dated May 14, 1980. However, the preliminary results of our review are similar to those of the State Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining (letter to Mr. Mark Adkias, of your office, dated July 16, 1980). Therefore, your response to their deficiency letter will aid in complying with our forthcoming review.

In summary, I cannot grant final approval of your request for extension in the Mudwater Lease until we have agreed upon the boundaries for the extension. In addition, a condition of this extension approval will be that your revised, comprehensive plan must be submitted in a timely manner and include all existing and planned operations. If you have additional questions, please contact John Nadolski (303-837-3773) of my staff.

Sincerely,



DONALD A. CRANE

Attachments I, II, and III

cc: Moffit, USGS, SLC
Trippe, USGS, Denver
Christensen, USFS, Price
Smith, DOGM, SLC

Attachment III

The proposed modification to the Star Point No. 2 mine plan concerning break-out portals in the West Fork of Mud Water Canyon is approved subject to the following stipulations developed by the Forest Service and the Office of Surface Mining:

1. Any surface disturbance which occurs as a result of the break-out portal will be reclaimed subject to approval by the Office of Surface Mining.
↑ NICKELSKI - ACCEPTABLE SEED MIXTURE.
2. Only the two existing ventilation breakouts are authorized by this mine addendum approval.
3. No drilling, roads, or other surface activities are authorized by approval of this mine plan addendum.
4. All construction access to the proposed ventilation breakouts will be from within the mine.
5. No water, waste or trash will be allowed to be discharged from the ventilation breakouts openings.
6. The portals will be sealed when no longer needed. ADD #6 FROM NEXT PAGE
7. Eyebrow ditches will be constructed as directed by the Forest Engineer.

The proposed modification to the Star Point No. 2 mine plan dated February 4, 1980 concerning break-out portals in Seeley Canyon is approved subject to the following stipulations developed by the Forest Service and the Office of Surface Mining:

1. Any surface disturbance which occurs as a result of the ventilation break-outs will be reclaimed subject to approval by the Office of Surface Mining.

2. A maximum of five ventilation breakouts are authorized by this mine addendum approval.
3. No drilling, roads, or other surface activities are authorized by this mine addendum approval.
4. All construction access to the proposed ventilation breakouts will be from within the mine.
5. No water, waste or trash will be allowed to be discharged from the ventilation breakout openings.
6. Each opening will be permanently closed as specified by Federal or State regulations.
7. Clearances for threatened and endangered species and cultural and historical resources, if required, will be obtained prior to construction of the breakouts.