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Plateau Mining Star Point Mines

To Joe,
Jeb SWS

United States Department of the Interior
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
Reclamation and Enforcement
BROOKS TOWERS
1020 15TH STREET
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

September 11, 1980

ACT/007/006

Mr. Ron Daniels
Coordinator of Mined Land Development
Department of Natural Resources
1588 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Dear Mr. Daniels

Enclosed please find a copy(s) of on-site inspection report. The inspection was conducted within Starpoint 1 &2 and Lion Portal during the period of August 13, 1980.

If you have any questions or problems, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Ehmett

Thomas E. Ehmett, Acting Chief
Division of Inspection & Enforcement

RECEIVED
SEP 15 1980
DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

REGION V ON-SITE INSPECTION REPORT

PLATEAU MINING COMPANY
STARPOINT 1 & 2 AND LION PORTAL
P.O. Box 539
Price, Utah 84501
(801) 637-2875

DATES:	August 13 and 15, 1980
TIME:	
WEATHER:	Sunny and warm. Rain showers in the area August 15, 1980.
COUNTY AND STATE:	Carbon, Utah
COMPANY OFFICIALS:	Steve Rigby, Floyd Tucker, Bill Snyder and Dan Price
STATE OFFICIALS:	Joe Helfrich and Mary Kay Stein
OSM OFFICIAL:	Larry Damrau
STATE PERMIT NUMBER:	ACT/007/006
MSHA ID NUMBER:	42-00171
STATE ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS:	Notice of Violation 80-1-1 (10 violations)
FEDERAL ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS:	Notice of Violation 80-5-3-12 (9 violations)

COMPLIANCE WITH INTERIM REGULATIONS

717.11 General Obligations

Road construction activities, approved by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) under Right-of-Entry Grant U-39779 dated April 17, 1979, were not in accordance with approved plan. The company did not have written notice to proceed on the construction, although they were directed to obtain such notice prior to initiating the approved activities without approval.

An area, approximately five to seven acres, south of the newly constructed conveyor belt and northeast of the access/haulroad leading to Starpoint #1 and #2 portals, was being utilized as a borrow pit for construction activities. Approval to conduct such activities had not been granted by the State Regulatory Authority or OSM. Violation 2 of 9 of NOV 80-5-3-12 was issued for operating without a permit at the borrow pit area.

The Mudwater Canyon portal area was not addressed under mining and reclamation plans available at the mine site. Violation 10 of 10 of NOV 80-1-1 was issued by the State Regulatory Authority for operating without a permit at the Mudwater Canyon portal area.

717.12 Signs and Markers

A mine and permit identification sign with required information was posted at the east entrance to the mine property. During the initial

717.12 Signs and Markers (cont'd)

day of inspection, August 13, no sign was present at the point where the upper access road from the west meets the access road between Starpoint #1 and #2 portals and the Lion portal. Posting of the sign was addressed in the inspection report of March 13, 1980. According to Steve Rigby, the sign was posted the following day. However, due to weather conditions access to the posted sign was not possible on August 15.

717.14 Backfilling and Grading

All areas affected at the mine site are presently being utilized. The Starpoint portal and loadout area is anticipated to be the first area capable of being backfilled and graded. During the March 13 inspection, the company anticipated that the mining activities through the Starpoint portals would be terminated in a year and reclamation activities initiated. During this inspection, the company anticipated that the present retreating operation would not be completed for approximately three years.

717.17 Protection of the Hydrologic System

Four affected areas were observed which did not have all surface drainage controlled and passing through sedimentation control structures prior to entering natural drainages or leaving the permit area. The State issued Violations 2 of 10 and 3 of 10 of NOV 80-1-1 for the above violations observed at the Mudwater Canyon portal area and the borrow pit area, respectively. OSM issued Violations 4 of 9 and 5 of 9 NOV 80-5-3-12 for the above violations observed at the loadout area of Starpoint No. 1 portal and the tipple site area, respectively.

Three water samples were taken on August 13, 1980, from a point approximately one half mile below the main entrance to the mine site at a point where surface drainage from the tipple and surface facilities area was entering the natural drainage off-site. The samples were all taken from the same point. The flow rate at the time the samples were taken was estimated at five to seven gallons per minute. The samples were black and contained a large amount of coal fines. A sample was given to the company and the State Regulatory Authority. The sample retained by this office is presently being analyzed for total suspended solids. Violation 3 of 9 of NOV 80-5-3-12 was issued by this office for discharge from a disturbed area failing to meet effluent limitations.

The State Regulatory Authority issued Violation 7 of 10 of NOV 80-1-1 to the company for failure to monitor all discharges from the underground operations. The violation was issued for the mine water discharged at the Mudwater Canyon portal area. Quality and flow measurements were required to be monitored for all water discharged from the mine under the interim hydrologic monitoring plan.

717.17 Protection of the Hydrologic System (cont'd)

The State Regulatory Authority issued Violation 8 of 10 of NOV 80-1-1 for failure to monitor groundwater as required under the interim hydrologic monitoring plan.

Violation 9 of 10 of NOV 80-1-1 was issued to the company by the State Regulatory Authority for failure to report water quality data to the State on a quarterly basis with a yearly report explaining the results and any extenuating circumstances as required in the interim hydrologic monitoring plan.

OSM issued Violation Number 6 of 9 of NOV 80-5-3-12, for failure to construct access roads so as to prevent additional contribution of suspended solids to streamflow, or to runoff outside the permit area. The violation was issued for the construction activities associated with the new access road to the Lion portal within Section 9 T15S, R8E. Erosion control structures were not present at outlets of all culverts draining the access road and that drainage discharging from the upper culverts was not controlled to prevent the discharged water from flowing over the cut and fill areas associated with the same road at lower elevations. The surface water discharged from the access road does not pass through erosion control structures prior to entering the natural drainage and flowing off the permit area.

The State Regulatory Authority issued Violation 1 of 10 of NOV 80-1-1 for failure to maintain access and haulroads so as to prevent contributions of suspended solids to streamflow or runoff outside the permit area. The violation applied to the old access and haulroad to the Starpoint No. 1 portal area and intermediate stockpile area. During this inspection, erosion gullies formed from the road drainage were observed at points where the drainage left the road. The lack of drainage control associated with the road was also evidenced by the presence of only two drainage culverts associated with the more than one mile of access/haulroad and the poor state of maintenance which those drainage structures exhibited.

Several violations were issued by the State Regulatory Authority and OSM for failure to remove, segregate, stockpile, or protect topsoil at different areas associated with the mining operation. Although topsoil removal operations had been initiated at each of the areas cited, the placement of the materials on steep slopes, the lack of control of the stockpiled material and the failure to protect the material from wind and water erosion by conducting revegetation and mulching operation on the stockpiles were observed conditions for which the violations were cited. State Violation 4 of 10, 5 of 10 and 6 of 10 of NOV 80-1-1 were issued for the above violation for the topsoil located at the switchback adjacent to the Lion deck portal sedimentation pond, the topsoil stockpile located adjacent to Starpoint No. 1 intermediate coal stockpile sedimentation pond,

717.17 Protection of the Hydrologic System (cont'd)

and the topsoil associated with the diversion structure and sedimenation pond below the active refuse disposal area, respectively. OSM Violations 7 of 9, 8 of 9 and 9 of 9 were issued for the above violation for the topsoil associated with the diversion structure and sedimentation pond area below the tipple and old refuse disposal area, the borrow pit area adjacent to the new conveyor belt system, and the sediment pond above the active refuse disposal area adjacent to the coal stockpile area behind the office.

SUMMARY OF ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

State Notice of Violation Number 80-1-1

Violation Number	Nature of Violation
1 of 10	Failure to maintain access and haulroads.
2 of 10	Failure to pass surface drainage through sedimentation control facilities.
3 of 10	Failure to pass surface drainage through sedimentation control facilities.
4 of 10	Failure to segregate, stockpile and protect topsoil.
5 of 10	Failure to segregate, stockpile and protect topsoil.
6 of 10	Failure to segregate, stockpile and protect topsoil.
7 of 10	Failure to monitor discharge from underground operations.
8 of 10	Failure to monitor groundwater.
9 of 10	Failure to report water data to the division.
10 of 10	Operating without a permit.

OSM Notice of Violation Number 80-5-3-12

Violation Number	Nature of Violation
1 of 9	Operating without a permit.
2 of 9	Operating without a permit.
3 of 9	Effluent limitations.
4 of 9	Failure to pass surface drainage through sedimentation ponds.
5 of 9	Failure to pass surface drainage through sedimentation ponds.
6 of 9	Additional contributions of suspended solids to streamflow from access road.

STARPOINT #1 & #2 AND LION PORTAL

SUMMARY OF ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS (cont'd)

Violation Number	Nature of Violation
7 of 9	Failure to remove, segregate, stockpile or protect topsoil.
8 of 9	Failure to remove, segregate, stockpile or protect topsoil.
9 of 9	Failure to remove, segregate, stockpile or protect topsoil.

Larry Damrau

LARRY DAMRAU
RECLAMATION SPECIALIST

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Vacation or Termination of Notice or Order

To the Following Permittee or Operator:

Name Platinum Mining Company

Mailing Address P.O. Box 539, Price, Utah 84501

State Permit No. ACT/007/006

Under the authority of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (P.L. 9
30 U.S.C. 1201), with respect to:

Notice of Violation No. N 80-5-3-5 [ ] Y [1] T V dated 31 March, 19

Cessation Order No. C — [ ] Y [ ] T V dated _____, 19

Violation No. 1 is hereby [X] Terminated [ ] Vacated because:
Actions required for abatement have been met. See letter from company dated April 29, 1980.

Violation No. ___ is hereby [ ] Terminated [ ] Vacated because:

Violation No. ___ is hereby [ ] Terminated [ ] Vacated because:

Date of Service 10 September 1980 D. L. Damrau #13
Signature of Authorized Representati

Time of Service or Mailing _____ [ ] a.m. [ ] p.m. D. L. DAMRAU #13
Name and I.D. No.