

0033

PLATEAU MINING COMPANY

A Subsidiary of Getty Mineral Resources Company

P.O. Drawer PMC

Price, Utah 84501-0904

Telephone (801) 637-2875

File ACT/007/006

RECEIVED

AUG 31 1981

August 28, 1981

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING
JIM

SEP 02 1981

Mr. James W. Smith, Jr.
Coordinator of Mine Land Development
Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
1588 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84116

Re: Seeley Canyon Breakouts
Star Point No. 2 Mine
ACT 007/006
Carbon County, UT.

Dear Mr. Smith;

Plateau Mining Company has received approval from the Office of Surface Mining, on October 6, 1980, authorizing five ventilation breakouts in Seeley Canyon, with stipulations developed by the U.S. Forest Service, and the Office of Surface Mining.

Plateau Mining Company proceeded toward the development of these breakouts but encountered burn at a large distance from the projected outcrop line in Seeley Canyon. We, therefore, request a modification, in direction, and also a modification of seam breakout. The attached proposal outlines the modification in detail.

Your immediate response, to this request for modification, would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

PLATEAU MINING COMPANY


Steve Rigby
Chief Engineer

SR/gd

attachment

cc: Donald A. Crane, O.S.M. w/attachment
Reed Christensen, U.S.D.A. Forest Service w/attachment
Jackson W. Moffitt, U.S.G.S. w/attachment
Floyd Tucker, P.M.C. w/attachment

P R O P O S A L

Seeley Canyon Ventilation Portals Modification

PURPOSE:

Plateau Mining Company's major mining activities will be concentrated in the Wattis Seam (top seam) for the next five (5) years. The major mining, in the Wattis Seam, is to be done as per U.S.G.S. Requirements for Multiple Seam Mining, (mining top seam first). The present air supply, from the portals located in the Mudwater Canyon, will not be sufficient as mining moves westerly. The Seeley Canyon portals will allow the air intake to be considerably closer to the bulk of Plateau's fifty (50) million tons of recoverable coal on Federal Leases. The increased air volume will improve ventilation at the face, providing better and safer conditions for the miners to work in. These portals will allow additional emergency escapeways to the surface.

SEAM CHANGE:

The Seeley Canyon breakouts have been approved by D.O.G.M., O.S.M., U.S.G.S., and U.S. Forest Service for the Third Bed (middle seam). Plateau Mining Company would like to modify this approval, in order to breakout in the Wattis Seam (top seam). The seam change was necessary after the burn area was encountered at a greater distance from the surface than first anticipated. Also, the major mining activities will be concentrated in the Wattis Seam for the next five (5) years.

Plateau Mining Company requests that the breakout be approved for the Wattis Seam first, and the approvals for breakouts in the other seams remain available, if mining conditions so permit. The proposed seam change for the Seeley Canyon breakout has been incorporated into Plateau Mining Company's

current Mining and Reclamation Plan, submitted February 19, 1981.

DIRECTION CHANGE:

The approved Seeley Canyon breakouts were to be on the north-facing slope of the Canyon. Plateau Mining Company would like to modify these breakouts to be on the east-facing slope of the Canyon. The proposed modification is exhibited on the enclosed mine map.

The west side breakout could possibly encounter less burn than was previously encountered with the south side breakout. This modification will, also, bring our Mine Plan on Federal Lease SL-031286 in concurrence with modification approved by U.S.G.S., July 10, 1981. (copy attached) This directional change has been incorporated in Plateau Mining Company's current Mining and Reclamation Plan, submitted February 19, 1981.

ATTACHMENTS PER PROPOSALS:

1. Letter from Office of Surface Mining, received by Plateau Mining Company, October 6, 1980, approving Seeley Canyon breakout.
2. Letter from U.S.G.S. dated July 10, 1981, approving mining modification on Federal Lease SL-031286. This approval incorporates east-facing slope breakout in Seeley Canyon.
3. Letter from D.O.G.M. approving mine working beyond the "Box", within Federal Lease SL-031286, dated June 22, 1981.
4. Mine map showing east-facing slope breakout into Seeley Canyon.

SUMMARY:

Plateau Mining Company requested permission to breakout in Seeley Canyon

on February 4, 1980. Permission was granted on October 6, 1980. At the time of the request, the intent of Plateau Mining Company was two-fold. First, and most important, was the driving of entries in the third bed to allow for additional ventilation for its westerly workings. It also allowed a working area for Plateau Mining Company's miners, while awaiting approval to extend the Star Point No. 2 mine workings beyond the "Box", within Federal Lease SL-031286. This approval was received from the Division of Gas, Oil, and Mining, June 22, 1981. This allowed for Plateau Mining Company to utilize its mining crews in this area without a reduction in force. It was during this advance mining toward the surface, that the heavy burn was encountered. An effort was made to circumvent this burn, but it soon became evident that without excessive expense, and endangering the miners, the burn could not be crossed. The decision was then made, but Plateau Mining Company, to pursue a directional and seam change for the Seeley Canyon breakout. This modification will also conform to U.S.G.S. regulation requiring mining from top to bottom seams, in multiple seam mining.

Plateau Mining Company will utilize the same procedures as outlined in the Seeley Canyon Proposal of February 4, 1980. Plateau Mining Company will also adhere to the stipulations developed by O.S.M., and the U.S. Forest Service as per approved plan.