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DIVISION OF OIL, GAS, AND MINING
1588 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116
(801) 533-5771

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October 1, 1981

Mr. Steve Rigby, Chief Engineer
Plateau Mining Company
P. O. Box PMC
Price, Utah 84501

RE: Refuse Waste Pile Approval
Starpoint Mines
ACT/007/006
Carbon County, Utah

Dear Mr. Rigby:

The Division of Oil, Gas and Mining has reviewed the operation and reclamation plans for the refuse pile at the Starpoint Mine (Vol. V, Section 13.6.2 of the Mining and Reclamation Plan submitted February 20, 1981).

Besides Vol. V, Section 13.6.2 and including the correspondence on reclamation of the refuse waste pile which occurred during June-August 1981, the following are the understood procedures for construction and reclamation of Phases I, II and III.

Construction Procedures:

Assuming a 40 million ton reserve, Phase I would be filled within the eighth year, Phase II would be constructed and filled by the twelfth year and Phase III would be constructed last and would be utilized to the end of the mine life. Construction procedures will be the same for all phases. Topsoil will be removed and temporarily stockpiled prior to construction of each phase. Contemporaneous reclamation will be initiated as soon as possible for each completed phase utilizing the stockpiled topsoil from the phase being initiated. No ground water sources or natural surface drainages pass through the waste pile area; therefore, a subdrainage system is not required. Waste piles will be constructed such that slide slopes will be no steeper than 1.75 h:1.0 v. With these side slopes and assuming (1) the gradation of future refuse will be similar to that in the existing pile; and (2) the pile will remain a nonwater retention system, the safety factor will be in excess of 1.5. Waste will be spread and compacted, in horizontal lifts not to exceed two feet, using a caterpillar tractor and end dump trucks. Waste will be compacted to a density of 75 pounds per cubic foot to prevent spontaneous combustion and provide the required strength for stability. Maximum height of waste piles will not exceed 150 feet.

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Inspection:

Construction inspections will be conducted quarterly by a qualified registered engineer. Inspections will consider slope, compaction, height of fill, removal and storage of topsoil, and stockpile revegetation. The inspection will also insure that waste piles remain nonwater retention systems by use of existing and proposed piezometers.

Reclamation Plan:

The applicant will strip topsoil from the Phase II waste areas for redistribution on the final graded Phase I area. Excess topsoil will be stockpiled for use in the Phase II and III waste piles. Topsoil will also be removed and stockpiled prior to disturbance of the Phase III area. Approximately 10 inches of topsoil will be redistributed over the Phase I, II and III areas. Topsoil stockpiles will be revegetated with a temporary mix to prevent wind and water erosion. The applicant states that seed mixes for final revegetation of Phase I-III will be proposed following completion of vegetation surveys. To protect and enhance wildlife resources the applicant proposes speed limits below 30 mph on waste haul road and planting of palatable species away from the coal waste site.

While the refuse disposal plan addresses all appropriate sections of the State of Utah's Mining and Reclamation Program, certain sections have been determined inadequate or incomplete. However, the inadequacies do not justify delaying the approval of the refuse disposal permit. Therefore, the Division approves the Phase I, II and III operation and reclamation plans with the following stipulations:

Stipulation 9-22-1

The applicant will fulfill the terms and conditions as set forth by the Bureau of Land Management in the right-of-way approval granted August 21, 1981. (See enclosure).

Stipulation 9-22-2

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as the Manti-LaSal National Forest Service, have requested a mitigation measurement be taken for the lost winter forage for mule deer. Plateau must propose such a measure.

Stipulation 9-22-3

Within 6 months of this approval and pursuant to 817.21 the applicant will submit soil physical and chemical analysis for the Phase II and III areas of the refuse disposal pile. Soil chemical data for the refuse disposal area submitted in Plateau's response to the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining's ACR lacked information on the SAR and soluble Na. Also, Plateau must submit soluble Ca and Mg in meq/l rather than mg/l. The soil data will be tied into the volume of suitable materials to be segregated and that which is to be redistributed. The need for substitute materials to make up redistribution deficits should be evaluated.

Stipulation 9-22-4

Pursuant to 783.19 the applicant will submit vegetation baseline data for Phase ~~II~~ and III.

The baseline vegetation study data must be adequate to set a standard for revegetation by evaluating cover, density, composition, exposure, slopes and soils of the disturbed area and selecting a reference area with similar characteristics pursuant to 817.116.

The area (in acres) of each vegetation type in the permit area and the percent of the permit area is needed along with the area of disturbance in each vegetation type and the total area of present and proposed disturbance.

Shrub density refers to the number of stems (plants) per unit of area and this measurement should be distinguished from cover in the MRP.

A documented (SCS) statement of productivity for the three community types at the proposed waste pile site should be provided.

A comparison between the reference areas and the disturbed areas should be submitted, i.e., cover, density (by a T-test), composition (by a similarity index), exposure, slope and soils.

A detailed revegetation plan for each community type consistent with the proposed post mining land-use, including a schedule, species, community amount, methods, mulching techniques, irrigation, pest and disease control (if applicable) and measures used to determine success pursuant to UMC 817.116.

The applicant should address the methods and seed mixtures used for temporary stabilization as required under UMC 817.114.

Also, the applicant must specify and identify the permanent measures proposed which will ensure the stability of topsoil on graded slopes and which will prevent erosion.

The seed mixture should be in terms of Pure Live Seed (PLS). Before this list can be approved by DOGM concurrence from BLM must be obtained. The use of introduced species should be addressed as per the requirements of UMC 817.112.

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Plateau should submit results of revegetation test plot data and discuss how these results apply to the permanent revegetation plan.

Stipulation 9-22-5

The applicant proposes to utilize slurry settling ponds (tailings ponds) throughout the life of the refuse disposal area. In regard to the letter written July 9, 1981, describing methods for excavating the tailings pond within a former sludge disposal site, the applicant must commit to use of excavated tailings ponds rather than raised ponds. If the use of raised tailings ponds are essential, the applicant must provide design data for the appropriate downstream sedimentation pond that will assure the capacity and proper treatment of an emergency discharge situation from such a raised pond pursuant to UMC 817.46.

Stipulation 9-22-6

Within 30 days of this approval Plateau will confirm in writing the fact that all underground waste is physically included with the disposal of the coal processing waste. Pursuant to UMC 817.71, all underground development waste will be disposed of in accordance with the requirements of this section and those of UMC 817.81-.83, 817.90-.93.

Stipulation 9-22-7

Pursuant to UMC 817.86-.87, the applicant shall within 30 days of receipt of this approval, submit a plan for the control of fires in the coal processing waste disposal pile. In the event that routine monitoring and inspection reveals ignition to be imminent (hot spots), material in that area will be excavated, removed to a predesignated place and spread out to extinguish and prevent further heating.

If an inspection of the coal processing waste pile discloses that a potential hazard exists, the applicant shall immediately inform the Division of the finding and of the emergency procedures formulated for public protection and remedial action.

Variance

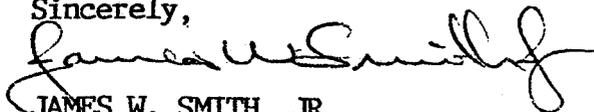
A variance for the slope of pond Nos. 5 and 8 embankments is granted. This variance is granted in light of the Division of Water Rights, Dam Safety concurrence with sedimentation pond designs received March 9, 1981. However, a condition of this variance to the design requirements of UMC 817.46(m) is the requirement that each pond embankment not meeting the slope criteria must demonstrate and be certified by a qualified registered professional engineer

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that the embankments are designed and constructed to insure a minimum 1.5 static safety factor. If this is not provided for, then, embankment designs for reconstruction to meet design specifications of UMC 817.46 must be submitted. A response to this condition should be submitted within six months of receipt of this approval.

If you have any further questions or concerns regarding this approval letter, please contact Sally Kefer of my staff.

Sincerely,



JAMES W. SMITH, JR.
COORDINATOR OF MINED LAND DEVELOPMENT

JWS/SK:te

Enclosure

cc: Robert Hagen, O.S.M.