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June 22, 1981

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Mr. Floyd J. Tucker  
Vice President/General Manager  
Plateau Mining Company  
P.O. Drawer PMC  
Price, Utah 84501

DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING

RE: Approval to Extend Mine Workings  
Starpoint No. 2 Mine  
ACT/007/006  
Carbon County, Utah

Dear Mr. Tucker:

The Division of Oil, Gas and Mining has received a letter (copy attached) from the Office of Surface Mining recommending approval to extend mine workings in the Starpoint No. 2 Mine as requested in February of this year. It is also our understanding that the U.S. Geological Survey has approved this extension as well, with some slight variation as outlined in your letter dated April 13, 1981.

The Division hereby concurs and issues its approval to extend the Starpoint No. 2 Mine workings as requested to continue production of coal beyond the "box" within Federal Lease SL-031286.

If you have any questions relative to this approval, please call.

Sincerely,

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

JWS/te  
Attachment (O.S.M. letter dated 6/11/81.  
cc: Don Crane, O.S.M.  
Jackson Moffitt, U.S.G.S.  
Reed Christensen, U.S.F.S.  
J.D. Spaulding, Getty Oil Co. w/att.

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JUN 25 1981

PMC  
FLOYD J. TUCKER



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

JUN 11 1981

Route Copy  
Copy to Wayne

Jim

Respected  
6-22-81

OFFICE OF  
SURFACE MINING

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

Dear Jim:

In my letter of May 1, 1981, I withheld my approval of Plateau Mining Company's request to extend mine working of the Star Point No. 2 Mine until the requirements of several recent violations were satisfied. My staff has been notified that these requirements have now been met. Therefore, I recommend approval to extend mine workings in the Star Point No. 2 Mine as outlined in Plateau's April 13th letter. The approved mining map and support narrative are attached to this letter.

If you have any questions in regard to this matter, please call me or John Nadolski of my staff.

Sincerely,

DONALD A. CRANE

Attachment

cc: Jackson Hoffitt, USGS, SLC (w/attachment)  
John Trippe, USGS, Denver (w/attachment)  
Reed Christensen, USDA-FS, Price (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

August 28, 1981

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

August 28, 1981

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.