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SEP 13 1983
DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

SEP 13 1983

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Richard Daves, Deputy Administrator
Western Technical Center

THROUGH: Steve Manger

FROM: Dave Maxwell

SUBJECT: Submittal of Star Point Meteorological Data
by Plateau Mining Company

At your request (7/25/83), I have examined the Star Point Mining and Reclamation Plan, specifically Section 11.5 (Climatological and Air Quality Monitoring), to determine why meteorological data were being submitted to OSM by Plateau Mining Company. Section 11.5 states that Plateau Mining would install a precipitation gauge since annual precipitation on the Star Point Mine lease area ranges from 13 inches to 22 inches primarily due to an elevation range of 7,000 feet to 10,000 feet on the lease area. Apparently, Plateau Mining has volunteered to establish a precipitation monitoring program and has since submitted temperature, pressure, wind, and sky cover data in addition to precipitation data to OSM usually on a quarterly, but sometimes semi-annual basis. The meteorological data would be useful in the determination of suitable coal or topsoil pile locations, the proper size of sedimentation ponds, and the interpretation of hydrological monitoring on the lease area.

I have prepared a letter to Plateau Mining Company (draft attached) suggesting that the meteorological data recorded at their Wattis, Utah station (elevation 7,463 feet) be submitted to OSM only at the time of a permit renewal request or permit modification. I recommended a format for data submitted as well as a station narrative documenting station maintenance, calibration, and relocation. The meteorological parameters of interest to OSM are precipitation (monthly totals and maximum 24-hour amount), temperature (monthly maximum and minimum), wind speed (monthly average and maximum monthly wind gust), and monthly prevailing wind direction. The percent data recovery for each parameter should be determined on a monthly basis.

It is recommended that Plateau Mining summarize and submit the Wattis meteorological data to OSM only as part of a permit renewal request or permit modification. The summarized data would be compared with the meteorological data generated from a National Weather Service sponsored station in Hiawatha, Utah, which is located approximately five miles to the southeast at an elevation about 500 feet lower than the Wattis station to determine

representativeness of the two data sets. In addition, the data would be used in the mine plan review of climatology, hydrology, and reclamation and revegetation control.

cc:

Jim Smith, UDOCM ✓
Bob Hagen, Albuquerque Field Office

bac: Adm
Div
Ofc

Maxwell/eg/2722A/8-8-83