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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
Reclamation and Enforcement
BROOKS TOWERS
1020 15TH STREET
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

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DIVISION OF OIL GAS & MINING

Dianne Nielson, Director
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-5340

ACT/007/006
#3

Dear Dr. Nielson:

The Office of Surface Mining (OSM) has reviewed the material presented at the meeting held at the Division offices on November 8, 1984, with representatives from Plateau Mining Company concerning their plans to drive rock tunnels through a graben to access previously permitted coal. Based on the information presented at the meeting, there is no requirement to modify the mining plan approval. This is based on the plan to drive tunnels and mains through approximately 2,100 feet of rock and possibly through some four acres of recently leased but unpermitted coal. The development of mains in the coal is incidental to accessing previously permitted coal, and does not constitute mining in and of itself. The Bureau of Land Management must approve removal of the coal under its authority to allow modifications to the resource recovery and protection plan.

We are concerned that the issues of ground-water impacts, waste characterization and disposal, and subsidence be adequately addressed in the review undertaken by the Division. Any plans to mine coal in the recently leased unpermitted coal adjacent to the rock tunnels and mains will require Secretarial approval of a mining plan modification. This can be reviewed at the operator's request at some time in the future.

In accordance with the established practices on Federal lands mines, please advise Walter Swain, Utah Senior Project Manager, of the Division's proposed determination of required changes to the existing permanent program permit for concurrence. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Mark Humprey or Walter Swain at (303) 844-3806.

Sincerely,

Allen D. Klein

Allen D. Klein
Administrator
Western Technical Center

cc: Robert Hagen, OSM - Albuquerque

Orig Mine file
cc R. Daniels
W. Hedberg