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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING

Reclamation and Enforcement

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

SEP 24 1984

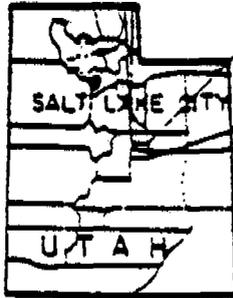
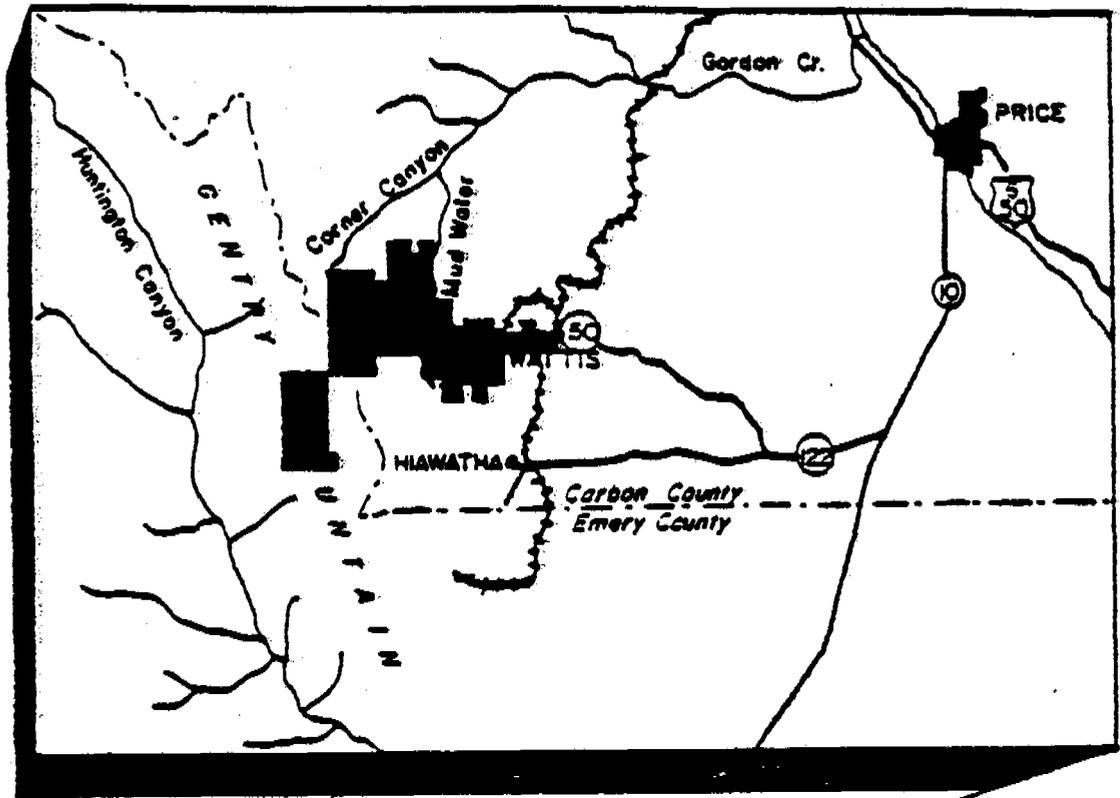
Memorandum

To: Administrator, Western Technical Center

From: Acting Director, Office of Surface Mining

Subject: Delegation of Authority to Issue Federal Permits for a Revision to Star Point Mine, Utah

You are hereby authorized to exercise the authority vested in the Director of the Office of Surface Mining to approve or disapprove the application for a revision to Federal Permit Number UT-0018 to construct and operate a unit train loadout facility. The Bureau of Land Management, Solid Minerals Branch, has confirmed that the proposed revision to the Star Point Mine permit area does not include additional leased or unleased Federal coal requiring approval under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended. This permit revision does not qualify as a mining plan modification under 30 CFR 746.18.

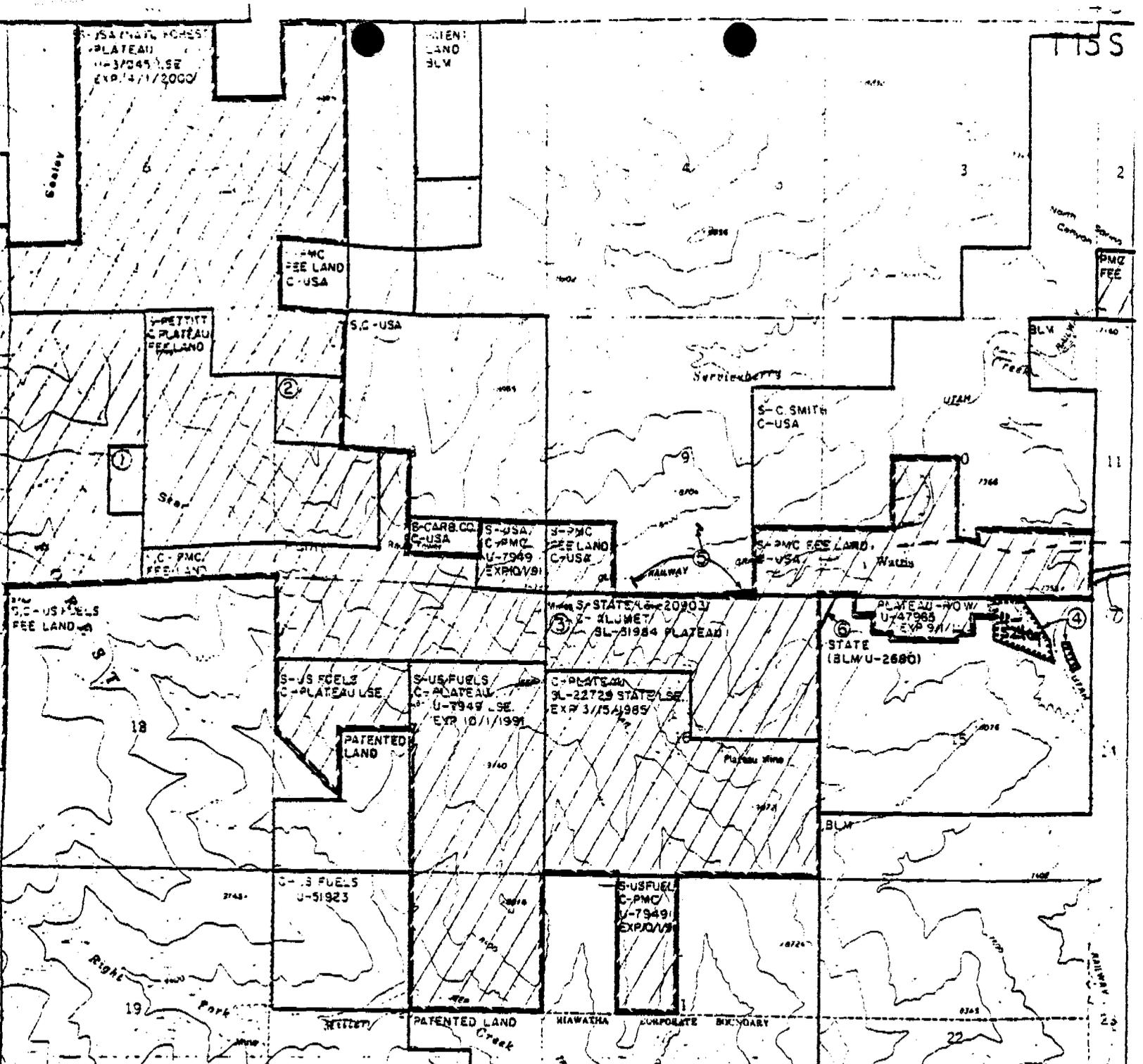


(ENLARGED VIEW)

Plateau Mine General
LOCATION MAP

PLATEAU MINING COMPANY
 CARBON & EMERY COS., UTAH

Map 1



SURFACE & MINERAL OWNERSHIP MAP



MAP 2

PLATEAU MINING COMPANY
 P.O. DRAWER PMC · PRICE, UTAH 84601

PHONE 801 637-2875

SHEET 1.

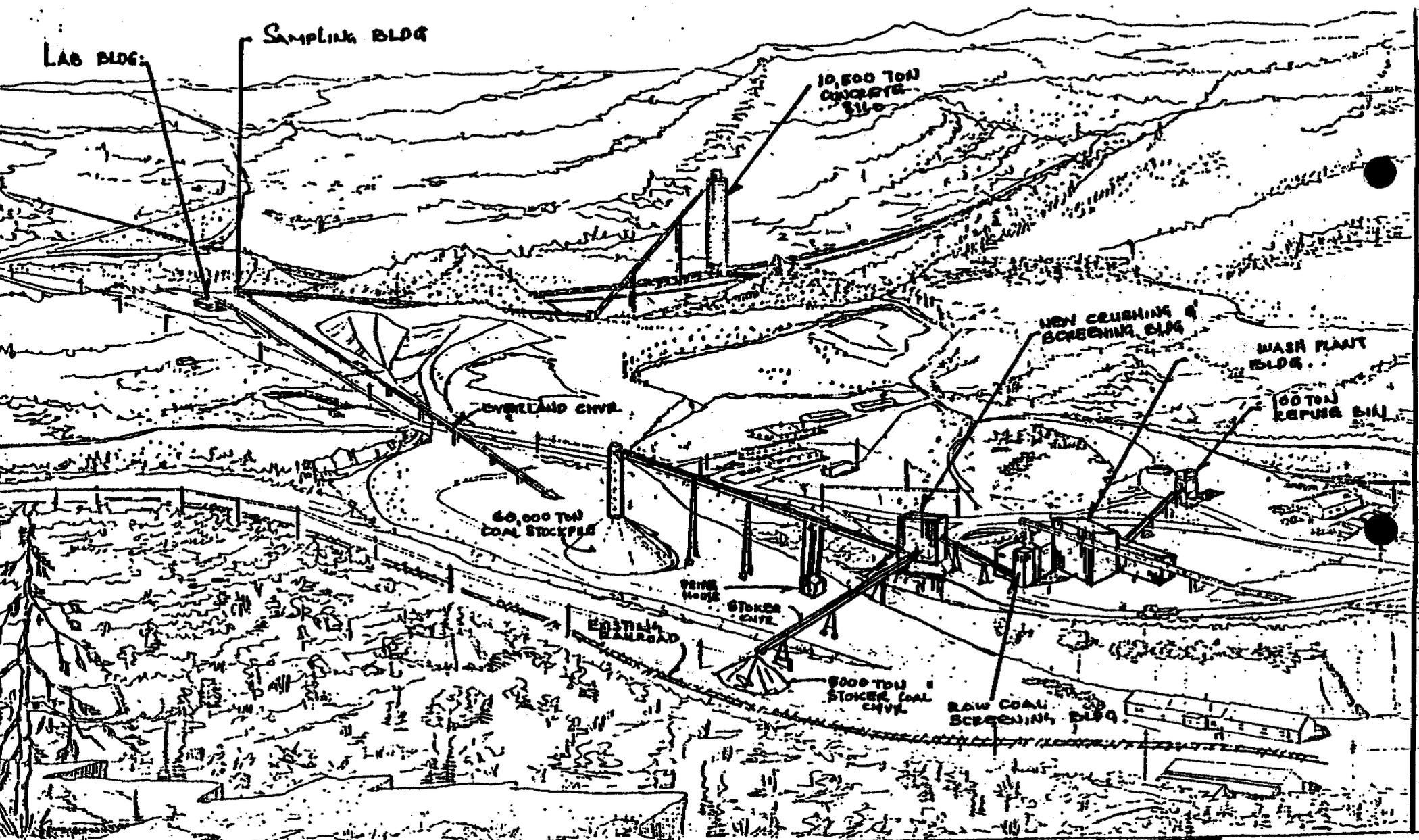
LEGEND



PLATEAU CONTROLLED LAND

- ① S-CARBON CO. C-PLATEAU SL-031286 EXP 9/15/2002
- ② S-USA C-PLATEAU SL-031286 EXP 9/15/2002
- ③ SPECIAL USE PERMIT # 229 ALL SECTION 16

NOTIFICATION
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Map 3

UNIT TRAIN LOADOUT OVER-VIEW



CHRONOLOGY OF PERMITTING EVENTS

Plateau Mining Company Star Point Mine MRP Permit Revision ACT/007/006, Carbon County, Utah

- December 1, 1983 Original three-volume submittal received by Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM) for construction of a unit train loadout facility and improvements in the coal preparation plant area.
- December 12, 1983 Plans transmitted to the Office of Surface Mining (OSM).
- December 19, 1983 DOGM receives letter from Division of State History addressing the cultural resource survey adequacy.
- January 17, 1984 DOGM transmits letter to OSM outlining permitting approach and review procedures for the Plateau Mining Company (PMC) application.
- March 29, 1984 DOGM determines application to be complete and advises company to publish notice.
- April 9, 1984 DOGM receives letter from OSM concurring with DOGM's January 17, 1984 letter outlining a permitting approach.
- May 10, 1984 DOGM receives copies of PMC affidavit of publication for the application, forwards copy of same to OSM.
- June 21, 1984 DOGM transmits technical deficiency document to PMC.
- June 27, 1984 DOGM receives PMC partial response to outstanding Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP) Special Conditions (#6 and #10) which were conditioned (see DOGM Letter dated December 9, 1983) to be addressed adequately before approval of the application would be granted by DOGM.
- July 11, 1984 PMC/Getty responds to Technical Deficiency Document.
- July 17, 1984 DOGM transmits copies of PMC Special Conditions #6 and #10 to OSM.

July 17, 1984 DOGM transmits copies of PMC Technical Deficiency response to state agencies.

July 17, 1984 DOGM requests additional technical information on vegetation from Getty via phone conversation.

July 1984 PMC/Getty provides vegetation and soils information to DOGM. Vegetation received July 17, 1984; soils received July 25, 1984.

July 18, 1984 DOGM transmits copies of PMC/Getty additional vegetation information received July 18, 1984 (amended revegetation seed mix) to state agencies.

July 19 & 20, 1984 DOGM requests additional soils information via phone conversation with Getty.

July 31, 1984 DOGM receives hydrologic technical deficiency information which addresses some of the concerns raised in "draft" technical deficiency document previously copied to operator.

August 6, 1984 DOGM transmits letter to PMC requesting justification on relocation of public road and copies "draft" hydrologic deficiencies to company.

August 9, 1984 PMC responds to DOGM request for public road information.

August 13 & 14, 1984 DOGM contacts PMC/Getty requesting a meeting with company hydrologist to resolve remaining DOGM concerns.

August 17, 1984 DOGM meets with company hydrologist to resolve remaining hydrologic technical issues at DOGM offices.

August 20, 1984 DOGM receives additional hydrologic information to address concerns expressed at the August 17, 1984 meeting at DOGM offices.

August 22, 1984 DOGM receives copy of BLM, right-of-way permit #U-52409.

FINDINGS DOCUMENT

Plateau Mining Company
Star Point Mines MRP Permit Revision
Carbon County, Utah

- I. The Office of Surface Mining (OSM) has determined that the permit application for a revision to the approved Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP) originally submitted December 1, 1983 and updated through August 20, 1984 and the permit with conditions, are accurate, complete and comply with the requirements of the Utah State Regulatory Program, the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) and the Federal Lands Program. (as required by UMC 786.19[a])

- II. The Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining has reviewed the permit application and mining plan, and prepared the technical analysis (TA). OSM has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) and reviewed the TA and incorporated documents; and, based on this has made the following findings:
 1. The information in the permit application for a revision and the approved MRP details acceptable practices for reclamation. The DOGM has determined that reclamation, as required by the Act, can be feasibly accomplished under the permit application for a revision (see TA Section UMC 817.111 - .117). (UMC 786.19[c])

 2. Cumulative hydrologic impacts have been assessed for the unit train loadout facility and coal preparation plant area by the DOGM (see Cumulative Hydrologic Impact Assessment [CHIA] in the Technical Analysis). The details of the type and extent of impacts are included in the CHIA. (UMC 786.19[c])

3. After reviewing the description of the proposed permit area, the OSM has determined that the area is:
 - a. Not included within an area designated unsuitable for coal mining operations. (UMC 786.19[d](1))

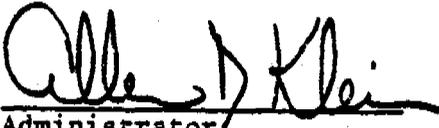
 - b. Not within an area under study for designating lands unsuitable for coal mining operations. (UMC 786.19[d](2))

 - c. Not on any land subject to the prohibitions or limitations of 30 CFR 761.11(a) (national parks, etc.), 761.11(f) (public building, etc.) and 761.11(g) (cemeteries). [UMC 786.19(d)(3)]

- d. Not within 100 feet of the outside right-of-way of a public road. (UMC 786.19[d][4])
 - e. Not within 300 feet of an occupied building. (UMC 786.19[d][5])
 - f. Not unsuitable in accordance with 522(b) and (a)(3) of SMCRA.
4. OSM's issuance of a permit and the Secretarial decision on the Mineral Leasing Act plan are in compliance with the National Preservation Act and implementing regulations (see concurrence letter from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), December 19, 1983 and Star Point Mines Mining and Reclamation Plan, Volume 1, 3.5.2). (UMC 786.19[e])
 5. The applicant has the legal right to enter and begin surface mining activities in the permit area. The applicant has provided information required by UMC 782.15(b) (see BLM letter approving a right-of-way for use of the Federal estate issued April 10, 1984 and received by DOGM on August 22, 1984). (UMC 786.19[f])
 6. The applicant has submitted proof and the DOGM records indicate that prior violations of applicable laws and regulations have been or are in the process of being corrected (personal communication, David Lof, Field Specialist, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining [DOGM] August 28, 1984). (UMC 786.19[g])
 7. OSM records confirm that all fees for the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund have been paid (personal communication, John Sender, OSM Fee Compliance Officer, August 29, 1984). (UMC 786.19[h])
 8. OSM records show that the applicant does not control and has not controlled mining operations with a demonstrated pattern of willful violations of the Act of such nature, duration and with such resulting irreparable damage to the environment as to indicate an intent to comply with the provision of the Act (personal communication, Joe Helfrich, Field Supervisor, DOGM). (UMC 786.19[i])
 9. Reclamation operations to be performed under the permit will not be inconsistent with other underground mines in the general vicinity of the Star Point mine. (UMC 786.19[j])

10. The applicant posted a corporate surety bond for \$2,425,172.00 in May of 1983 for the Star Point mine. A revised bond (rider) in the amount \$3,246,317.00 (1985 dollars) will be posted by the applicant to cover the entire operation (including the unit train loadout facility). Of this amount, \$481,144.00 (1985 dollars) is for the unit train loadout facility and improvements in the coal preparation plant. This bond, as provided in the original permit approval, will be revised annually. See the bonding calculations attached to this document for specifics. (UMC 786.19[k])
11. The applicant has provided evidence and the OSM has found that there are no prime farmlands located in the permit area which are being protected as required by 30 CFR 785.17 (see letter from Soil Conservation Service dated July 7, 1981). (UMC 786.19[l])
12. OSM has determined that there are no alluvial valley floors (AVF) existing within the proposed permit area. There are no AVF's which may be negatively impacted by the utilization of the unit train loadout facility. (UMC 786.19[l])
13. The proposed postmining land-use for the permit area has been approved by OSM (see Technical Analysis section UMC 817.133). UMC 786.19[m])
14. OSM has made all specific approvals required by the Act, the approved Utah State Regulatory Program and the Federal Land Program. (UMC 786.19[n])
15. The proposed operation will not affect the continued existence of threatened or endangered species or result in the destruction of adverse modification of their critical habitats (see Technical Analysis section UMC 817.97 and letter dated July 23, 1984 from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). (UMC 786.19[o])
16. All procedures for public participation required by the Act, and the approved Utah State Regulatory Program have been complied with. (UMC 786.23[a][2]).

The applicant has complied with all other requirements of applicable Federal laws [30 CFR 746.13(g)].



Administrator
Western Technical Center

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

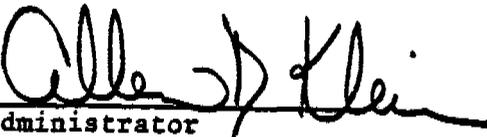
- Plateau Mining Company
Star Point Mine MRP Permit Revision

The technical analysis (TA), prepared by the State of Utah, and the environmental assessment (EA), prepared by the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) preceding this "Finding of No Significant Impact" statement, identifies certain environmental impacts that would result from Federal approval of the mining and reclamation plan for the unit train loadout facility and improvements in the coal preparation plant area for Plateau Mining Company's Star Point mine. The permit revision to the approved permanent program permit, submitted to the State under its approved permanent program, includes an additional total permit area of 25 acres. The additional permit area encompasses one Federal lease containing two tracts of land.

The regional impacts of coal mining in the Colorado basin are addressed in the Bureau of Land Management's "Unita - Southwestern Utah Final Environmental Impact Statement, February 1981." OSM and the State have determined that impacts to the Star Point mine from the unit train loadout facility and improvements in the coal preparation plant area would be minimal. OSM finds that impacts would not be significant.

Impacts identified by OSM and the State would be mitigated by those appropriate environmental protection measures detailed in the mining plan and proposed conditions attached to the permit.

Based upon the evaluation of impacts given in the TA and EA, I find that no significant impacts to the human environment would result from the proposed unit train loadout facility and improvements in the coal preparation plant area. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required.



Administrator
Western Technical Center

9/28/84
Date

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
PLATEAU MINING COMPANY
STAR POINT MINE
CARBON COUNTY, UTAH
FOR A
UTAH PERMANENT PROGRAM PERMIT REVISION
AND A
FEDERAL MINING PLAN REVISION APPROVAL
PREPARED BY
THE OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING (OSM)
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
SEPTEMBER 1984

Introduction

Plateau Mining Company (PMC) proposes to construct a unit train loadout facility and improve the coal preparation plant area adjacent to the Star Point coal mine located near the Town of Wattis, Utah, approximately 12 air miles west - southwest of Price in Carbon County. Plateau Mining is wholly owned subsidiary of Getty Oil Company, a part of Texaco, Inc.

The Star Point Mine Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP) was approved on January 27, 1982. An application to construct a unit train loadout facility was received by the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM) on December 1, 1983. On January 17, 1984 DOGM outlined a permitting approach and review procedures with the Office of Surface Mining (OSM). The application was determined complete and the applicant was authorized to publish notice on March 29, 1984. On April 11, 1984 the newspaper advertisement of the application was published in the Price, Utah Sun Advocate for four consecutive weeks commencing on April 11, 1984. Technical deficiencies were sent to the applicant on June 21, 1984 with the response from the applicant occurring on July 11, 1984. DOGM requested additional information on July 17, 19, and 20 and August 6, 1984. The surface ownership of two tracts totaling 25.19 acres is entirely Federal (Bureau of Land Management right-of-way U-52409). The unit train loadout facility will employ three people. A total of approximately 8.5 acres of new disturbance is proposed. A significant portion of the proposed facilities will be located on previously permitted disturbed land. There will be no new mine workings associated with the unit train loadout facility.

Purpose and Need of the Proposed Action

This environmental assessment (EA) is being written to assist public officials in making decisions that are based on an understanding of the environmental consequences. On September 5, 1984, DOGM proposed to

approve the Star Point Mines Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP) permit revision. In support of this proposed decision, DOGM has prepared and submitted a technical analysis (TA) of the revised MRP to OSM.

Proposed Action - Approve the Plateau Mining Company Unit Train Loadout Application with Conditions

This alternative is for approval of Plateau Mining Company's proposed unit train loadout facility and improvements in the coal preparation plant area (hereby referred to as the project area) as described in the revised Mining and Reclamation Plan and updated through August 20, 1984. Map 1 shows the general location of the Star Point mine while Map 2 details the existing permit area and proposed 25 acre lease area. Map 3 displays the proposed surface facilities for the project area.

The project area will consist of a 3,000 foot long graveled silo access and conveyor maintenance road, a 100 foot high x 12 foot diameter concrete stacking tube, a 210 foot high x 70 foot diameter concrete storage silo, silo penthouse (located on top of the storage silo), a reclaim tunnel, a sample and transfer tower building, a three concrete storage tank pads, 3,150 feet of 42-inch conveyor and its support system, a new fine coal recovery circuit, a new coal crushing and screening building, a raw coal stockpile (50,000 tons), and a stoker coal stockpile (5,000 ton). Three additional employees will be needed to operate the facilities in the project area. The right-of-way for the project area is for an access road, conveyor, sedimentation pond, diversion ditches, and culverts associated with a unit train loadout facility. The right-of-way contains 25.19 acres. The applicant has provided complete and accurate information for the proposed permit revision application. Therefore, OSM's preferred alternative is to approve the application as contained in the revised Star Point mine permit revision application with conditions and as recommended by the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining in their letter of recommendation and Findings of Compliance, dated September 5, 1984.

Alternative #1 - No Action

The Federal mineral leasing and surface mining laws require that the Secretary of the Interior respond to permit and mining plan applications and approve, disapprove, or conditionally approve operations on Federal leases. Furthermore, under Section 510 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) the Director of the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) must approve, disapprove, or approve with conditions applications for operators to conduct surface coal mining operations on Federal lands in states without cooperative agreements pursuant to SMCRA. Therefore, the alternative to take no action is not viable and will not be discussed further.

Impacts of Alternative #2 Disapproval

If the unit train loadout application is disapproved, an effective increase in coal recovery of seven percent would be lost. The disapproval of the permit revision application would mean that approximately 10,000 man-days of labor and three jobs would not be made available to the local economy during the three year construction phase. Furthermore, the company would not be loading coal as efficiently in order to meet contract demands.

Description of the Affected Environment

The Star Point mine is located within the northeastern portion of the Wasatch Plateau. The existing permit area is characterized by steep, narrow canyons containing prominent sandstone cliffs and relatively flat areas of exposed sandstones and exposed shales. Elevation ranges from approximately 7,000 to 7,400 feet and slopes range from essentially flat to over 100%. The complex geological and geomorphological conditions have produced a variety of site-specific soils that support both pinyon-juniper and saltbush vegetation types, sagebrush-grassland, oak-scrub communities, and scattered area of riparian habitat.

The proposed project area drains into two small drainage tributaries to Serviceberry Creek which joins with Miller Creek to form a tributary to the Price River. The area in which the proposed project area is located does not contain any leased or unleased Federal coal.

IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

Air Quality

Regional impacts from the project area on air quality are expected to be minimal due to the rapid fallout of particles with distance from the source and the fugitive dust control measures proposed by the applicant. Particulate matter is the only pollutant that would contribute to air pollution as a result of mining activities. Increases in concentrations of other pollutants such as sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, and photochemical oxidants will be negligible. Plateau Mining Company (PMC) has proposed a fugitive dust control plan to reduce the amount of particulate emitted into the atmosphere (Volume 1, Exhibit 3 of the permit revision application). Due to the moisture content of the coal (about 9.0%) and the use of water sprays at the silo, secondary crusher, transfer points, and screening operations, the potential for fugitive dust emissions from coal is minimized. Access roads will be watered, chemical dust suppressant occasionally applied, and vehicular speed reduced through the posting of signs to control roadway emissions. Natural climatic factors such as rain, snow, and frozen and damp surface also contribute to control fugitive emissions but only a limited basis. No residual impacts are anticipated during reclamation.

Geology

The geology of the project area is somewhat correlated with the topography of the area. This site has varied and generally rough topographic conditions. The northern stretch of the conveyor is on relatively flat areas of exposed Emery Sandstone and the majority of the area is dominated by Masuk Shale. Where erosion has exposed these two formations, the topography makes an abrupt change. The sandstones, being more resistant to erosion, occupy the uplands while the weathered Mancos Shales occupy the lowlands. Elevation ranges from 7,000 to 7,400 feet and slopes range from essentially flat to over 100%. Depositional deposits of gravel are found in the flatter areas of the Masuk Shale immediately east of the proposed site location. A description of the geology of the Star Point mine area is contained on pages 6-1 to 6-44 in Volume 2 of the Star Point Mines Mining and Reclamation Plan and pages 783-3 to 783-7 of the permit revision application. Since no underground coal mining will occur and most of the construction will occur on previously disturbed land, impacts to the local geology will be minimal. No residual impacts during reclamation are expected.

Soils

Approximately 4.2 acres of soils have been disturbed as a result of mining activities within that portion of the project area contained within the approved permit area.

An additional 0.85 acre of new disturbance within the approved permit area is anticipated. Approximately 3.45 acres of new disturbance will occur on the right-of-way lease. Soils found in previously undisturbed areas are of the Badlands Rubble Complex comprising about 75 percent of the area to be disturbed and are derived from geological materials (chiefly Mancos Shale with interbedded sandstone). Slopes may vary from 18 percent to 52 percent. Vegetation which occurs on these materials is generally salt tolerant. The Featherlegs stony loam, comprising approximately 25 percent of the area affected, is the other soil type found in the disturbance area. Vegetation associated with the soils is primarily pinyon-juniper type.

Topsoil will be redistributed to a depth of 12 inches and seeded after September 15th, but before April 1st, with the most likely seeding period occurring in October and November. All reclaimed areas will be hydromulched with a tackifying agent following seeding. Soil resource information is described on pages 783-20 to 783-24 in Volume 1 of the permit revision application. No adverse impacts to the soil will occur during the life of the project area and no residual impacts are expected during reclamation.

Vegetation

Approximately 3.0 acres of land within the previously approved permit area, which will contain the proposed project area, has been disturbed. The proposed area is located within the saltbush and pinion-juniper vegetation communities. Approximately 3.85 and 0.45 acres of these two communities will be disturbed, respectively. The saltbush vegetation type occupies the area around the silo and lower 1,500 feet of the conveyor system. An additional 1.45 acres of previously revegetated refuse pile will also be affected. The site will be reclaimed to wildlife habitat and livestock grazing and will use the saltbush and pinion-juniper reference areas for determining reclamation success. The spacing of the woody plants has been set at 2,200 stems per acre. Spatial distribution on a random basis would result in an average distance between plants of 4.5 feet.

The applicant has submitted a complete revegetation plan that adequately addresses timing of vegetation, species and seeding rates, planting methods, and mulching techniques for both permanent and contemporaneous reclamation. The vegetation plan is detailed on pages 783-13 to 783-18 in Volume 1 of the permit revision application.

Fish and Wildlife Resources

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has not identified any threatened or endangered animal species within or around the existing and proposed project area (see letter from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service dated July 23, 1984).

A total of 5.75 acres of wildlife habitat will be affected by the proposed project. Of this total, 1.45 acres have been previously affected by the waste pile expansion, 0.45 acres are in the pinyon-juniper type of vegetation, and 3.85 acres are in the saltbush type of vegetation. This area is classified by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources as high - priority winter range and is utilized during normal winters. With excessive snow, the deer move to crucial - critical habitat east of the project area.

The proposed conveyor system will be elevated to maintain a three foot clearance off the ground to allow migrating wildlife to pass through the areas. The railroad impoundment, formed by the URR railroad embankment into which sediment pond 8 will discharge, will be protected with a sediment pond and a system of diversion ditches which will maintain or increase the quality of water entering the area. A 40 acre tract of land has been improved to increase the carrying capacity and absorb displaced wildlife due to the activities of the proposed project area. The improvement has included mauling of decadent, over mature woody species to promote root sprouting, disking, and reseeding with species to improve quality and quantity of forage and installing a guzzler. Any hazards to wildlife will be fenced, covered or otherwise isolated to protect wildlife as determined in consultation with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. Fish and wildlife resources information is contained on pages 783-18 to 783-20 in Volume 1 of the permit revision application. A wildlife mitigation plan is described in Exhibit 4 of the same document. The development of the project area may impact the deer in the area due to a loss in winter forage. However, the magnitude of the impact will be minimized by implementing the Wildlife Mitigation Plan, included as Exhibit 4 in the permit revision application. Therefore, no residual impacts are anticipated during reclamation.

Surface Water Hydrology

The proposed project area is located at the eastern edge of the Star Point mine present permit boundary (see Map 2). The area is situated in the Serviceberry Creek drainage which joins with Miller Creek to form a tributary to the Price River. The northern portion of the project area drains two existing sedimentation ponds; ponds 4 and 6, which in turn discharge into two tributaries of Serviceberry Creek. The southern portion of the project drains into the man - made pond created by construction of the Utah Railway Track. This pond has no discharge into the Serviceberry Creek drainage.

A new sediment pond, Pond 8, will be constructed to treat the runoff from the new disturbance in the southern portion of the project area. The sediment control facility design plan for the project area is contained in Volume 1, Exhibit 2 of the permit revision application. Discharge from the sediment ponds will occur in the spring as a result of heavy snowmelt and from rainfall in the spring, summer, and fall.

The existing surface water resources of the proposed project area were addressed in the draft Cumulative Hydrologic Impact Assessment (CHIA) which was prepared by the Office of Surface Mining in May 1984.

Potential impacts to the surface water in the area could result from an increased amount of sediment levels from the roads, conveyor, and fill slopes and also from possible runoff discharges from the outslope of the loadout facility pad. No significant impacts to the surface water regime resulting from the construction, operation, and reclamation of the proposed project area are anticipated because: (1) the discharge from the sediment pond will be collected in the existing railroad impoundment and will then evaporate (the applicant will monitor the water quality of the water in the railroad impoundment); (2) adequate plans have been proposed for controlling surface runoff from disturbed areas through construction of a sediment pond and runoff collection ditches below the access road and north side of the loadout pad facilities and a sediment collection ditch along the base of the eastern pad outslope; (3) a small portion of the undisturbed area drainage above the road will be diverted around the disturbed area while the remaining portion of the drainage runoff will be treated in the sediment pond; and (4) increased sediment loads from the access road cut and fill slopes will be mitigated through revegetation of cut and fill slopes and by providing energy dissipation riprap in all areas where water velocities cause erosion. The technical analysis (TA) prepared by the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOG M) contains a CHIA for the proposed unit train loadout facility. In addition, there will be no impacts to the surface water regime as a result of improvements in the coal preparation plant area since the wash process will result in both improved control and a reduction in the amount of refuse generated. Adequate surface water and sediment controls exist at the affected areas.

The water and sediment control plan shown on the maps contained in Volumes II and III of the permit revision application and the calculations in Exhibit 2 of Volume I for the design of sediment pond 8 and for the design of the diversions provide for adequate protection of the hydrological balance both on-site and off-site. The assessment of probable cumulative impacts of all anticipated coal mining in the general area on the hydrologic balance, as described in UMC 780.21(c) has been made by DOGM and the operations proposed under the application have been designed to prevent damage to the hydrologic balance outside the proposed permit revision area. All of the sediment control facilities are designed to safely pass runoff from a 10-year, 24-hour precipitation event. The applicants' surface water hydrology plan is detailed on pages 783-8 to 783-10 and pages 784-23 to 784-34 of Volume I of the permit revision application and pages 7-32 to 7-91 of Volume 2 of the Star Point Mines Mining and Reclamation Plan.

Ground Water Hydrology

The proposed project area activities are on geologic areas not considered to be either recharge, storage or discharge areas due to the impermeable shale zone. The proposed facility will not cause any adverse impacts to the ground water system as a result of construction, operation, and reclamation activities since no subsurface disturbances will be undertaken which would intersect the ground water surface, no discharges of water will enter the ground water system, and the automatic dewatering device for sediment pond 8 insures that storm runoff will be drained into the pre-existing catchment basin (the railroad impoundment) and evaporate rather than percolate into the ground water system.

A complete description of the ground water resource of the Star Point mine and adjacent area is on pages 7-1 to 7-30 of the Star Point Mines Mining and Reclamation Plan. The groundwater system is also discussed in the CHIA prepared by DOGM.

Agriculture

The land within the existing mine permit area has been determined not be prime farmland (see Star Point Mines Mining and Reclamation Plan, Volume V, Supplement No. 2, Soil Conservation Letter of July 7, 1981). The absence of prime farmland is based on the lack of water for irrigation and the soils information. Only one additional soil type will be affected which was not already included within the existing permit boundary. The additional soil types is the Badlands type which is classified by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) as geologic material derived from weathered Mancos Shale and sandstone without agricultural qualities. The portion of this soils mapping unit that will be affected by the project varies in slope from 20% to 60%. Since the average annual precipitation for the project area is less than 15 inches (Star Point Mines Mining and Reclamation Plan, Volume III, Chapter II) and the land has not been historically used as cropland (Star Point Mines Mining and Reclamation Plan; Volume I, Chapter IV), agricultural developments are rather scarce in the area. Based on field investigations and geologic, hydrologic, land use, soils, and vegetation studies, there are no alluvial valley floors in the permit and adjacent areas which will be affected by the proposed surface mining operations.

Postmining Land Use

The land use in the proposed 25 acre expansion area has been for grazing by domestic livestock and wildlife. Grazing by cattle is under control of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and is part of the Wattis Grazing Allotment (permit revision application, page 783-26).

Following the removal of the surface facilities, the affected area will be restored to a condition capable of supporting the predisturbance land use of grazing land and wildlife habitat. The affected area will be regraded to the approximate original contour, drainage patterns will be restored, soil material will be reapplied and mulched and the seed mixtures will be planted. The operator will be responsible for maintaining the area and monitoring reclamation success for a minimum of ten years following reseeding.

Cultural and Historic Resources

Results of the applicants' investigations concerning the potential for cultural and historical resources within the area to be affected and adjacent areas are presented in Exhibit 1, Volume I of the permit revision application. These results were reviewed by the Utah State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The SHPO letter indicated that a cultural resource survey was conducted with little material being found (see SHPO letter dated December 19, 1983). The applicant offered to review the artifacts and place them in the Helper Mining Museum in Helper, Utah. Since the Helper Mining Museum is not an accredited museum, a loan program could be worked out between an accredited museum and the Helper Mining Museum regarding the display of artifacts or to arrange for the placement of historic artifacts in accredited museum. Plateau Mining Company committed to either a loan arrangement or to place the artifacts in an accredited museum in a September 12, 1984 letter to DOGM. No impacts are anticipated to any artifacts, however, should the situation change and the artifacts become threatened, then further evaluation may be required.

Socioeconomics

The proposed project will employ three full-time permanent employees from the local area. Socioeconomic impacts attributable to the proposed project area are minimal. The newly proposed facilities (screening, crushing, and cleaning) are estimated to yield an effective increase in overall coal recovery of approximately seven percent (see Technical Analysis). The construction workforce will conclude its work by 1986. The initial construction during 1984 will be performed by a local contractor with 1,305 man-days of labor anticipated. The construction contracts for 1985 and 1986 have not yet been awarded but 4,350 man-days of labor are projected for each year. The benefits to the local community will result from the likelihood of materials and supplies for the construction phase being purchased locally. The local contractor for 1984 will enhance the economy of Carbon and Emery Counties through use of the local workforce. Since the construction phase is short-term there will be no long-term economic or employment impacts resulting from the proposed project area.

Aesthetics

The construction and operation of the facilities within the project area will result in a total of 8.50 acres of new disturbance.

Of this total, 3.45 acres will be disturbed on the proposed lease area. The remaining disturbance is on the existing permitted area. The facilities included as part of the project area are a silo access and conveyor maintenance road, a 100 foot high concrete stacking tube, a 210 foot high concrete storage silo with a two story penthouse on top, a reclaim tunnel, a reclaim hopper, a sample and transfer tower building, three concrete storage pads, a 3,150 foot conveyor and support system, a new fine coal recovery circuit, a new coal crushing and screening building, a raw coal stockpile (50,000 tons), and a 5,000 ton stoker coal stockpile.

The proposed project area has an expected life of approximately 30 years. Since people visiting the Star Point mine site are usually there for the purpose of conducting business, the visual impact of the proposed project area on the general public is expected to be minimal. After the completion of mining operations at Star Point mine, the structures in the project area will be dismantled and removed, and the area will be reclaimed to approximate original contour and adjacent natural areas. Upon termination of Plateau Mining Company's liability of reclamation for the site, the area should blend into the adjacent undisturbed areas.

Bonding

The bond estimate of \$481,144,000.00 (1985 dollars) was posted on September 17, 1984 to cover reclamation of the proposed project area permit revision in the form of a surety. This amount is included in a rider to the original bond for \$3,246,317.00 for the entire operation (see Technical Analysis for project area bonding calculations and Exhibit 5, Volume I of the permit revision application).