STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Oil, Gas & Mining

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November 2, 1984

Mr. Ben A. Grimes
Plateau Mining Company
P. O. Drawer PMC
Price, Utah 84501

Dear Mr. Grimes:

Re: Soil Salvage in the Refuse Pile Expansion Area, Plateau Mining Company, ACT/007/006, Folder No. 3 & 4, Carbon County, Utah

Since June of this year a potential problem has been discussed between members of the PMC staff and the Division inspection staff. The substance of this concern has been centered around questions regarding the need to protect and salvage additional soil in the waste pile expansion area.

Discussions had occurred on several occassions (see inspection memos dated August 13, 1984 and October 30, 1984). The resolution of this question has become of greater concern with the passage of time.

The following comments are provided in the interest of expediting the resolution of these questions.

The soil material in question is located in the area designated PL5 in the refuse pile expansion map of June 1981. Thus it can be expected that a massive or structureless type of soil would be found below the 17 inch level of the profile based on data in table 4A of the PMC "Reply to Special Stipulations" dated February 17, 1982. While this would be considered the logical break point for the removal it is apparent that pockets of suitable soil remain and could potentially be salvaged. This is based on a site visit, I made on October 19, 1984, of the trench dug into these materials pursuant to a request from the inspector.

The following course of actions will be pursued to reconcile the situation.

1. The area must be stabilized to minimize erosion losses during the period required for resolution. This should include lining the base of the area with strawbales or silt fence to preclude erosion losses.

2. The available volume and need for this material must be evaluated in light of the overall soil balance at the operation. (Acreage to be reclaimed X inches of soil - the amount in storage = surplus or deficit) The cost: benefit of obtaining soils in this area should be determined to the extent that the cost of removal is weighed versus the apparent need for the material.

3. If the Division determines that the material is needed it need not be removed until the refuse expansion activity encroaches on the area, provided adequate protection is maintained to preserve the soil materials. If removal is required methodology for soil removal and a storage location must be approved.

In short, these are the measures which need to be pursued.

A. Strawbales should be put in place immediately and maintained.

B. The information required in item 2 shall be provided to the Division prior to December 31, 1984.

C. A decision on the fate of the materials shall be made prior to January 31, 1985.

Should you have any questions please call.

Sincerely,

Thomas L. Portle
Reclamation Soils Specialist

jvb
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