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STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Oil, Gas & Mining

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August 6, 1984

Mr. Walter Mueller, Jr.
Vice-President and General Manager
Plateau Mining Company
P. O. Drawer PMC
Price, Utah 84501

Attention: Mr. Ben Grimes

Dear Mr. Mueller:

RE: Technical Deficiencies for Findings Documentation, PMC Unit Train/Loadout Proposal, Star Point Mines, ACT/007/006, #3 and #4, Carbon County, Utah

The Division has completed its review of Plateau Mining Company's (PMC) July 5, 1984 Unit Train/Loadout Technical Review Responses and the subsequent technical vegetation and soils information received from Getty Mining Company on July 17 and July 25, 1984, respectively.

In the process of drafting the decision document and developing the associated findings, a number of questions have arisen. These questions will require clarification before the Division can continue with finalization of the processing of this permit application. Please provide responses to the following concerns at your earliest convenience.

As a result of an on-site inspection of the Star Point Mines by Mr. Dave Lof of the Division's Inspection & Enforcement staff on July 17 and 18, 1984, a significant construction and excavation project was noted. PMC representatives stated that this project was undertaken to modify and relocate the county road. It appears that this work was undertaken in conjunction with the proposed Unit Train/Loadout.

UMC 761.12(d) states:

> (d) Where the surface effects of the proposed underground coal mining activities are to be conducted within 100 feet measured horizontally of the outside right-of-way line of any public road (except where mine access roads or haulage roads join in such right-of-way line) or where the applicant proposes to relocate any public road, the Board shall-
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> (1) Require the applicant to obtain necessary approvals of the authority with jurisdiction over the public road;
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> (2) Provide notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the affected locale of a public hearing at least 2 weeks before the hearing;
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> (3) Provide an opportunity for public hearing at which any member of the public may participate in the locality of the proposed mining activities for the purpose of determining whether the interests of the public and affected landowner will be protected; and
>
> (4) Make a written finding based upon information received at the public hearing within 30 days after completion of the hearing as to whether the interests of the public and affected landowners will be protected from the proposed mining activities.

PMC did not include this proposed county road change in the permit application for the Unit Train/Loadout proposal. The applicant has apparently made an internal determination that this activity is not applicable to the regulations as outlined above.

1. The Division requests that PMC supply the information and justification used by the company to support this internal decision. This information will be reviewed upon receipt so that a final determination and finding can be made by the Division as required by UMC 786.19(d).

2. The technical responses provided by PMC in its July 5, 1984 submission, as related to hydrology, are not yet adequate to address the previous questions raised in the Division's June 21, 1984 technical deficiency letter.

   A significant portion of the remaining hydrologic issues requiring technical resolution parallel similar questions which were outlined in the Division's June 21, 1984 deficiency letter to Mr. Geoffrey Saunders of Getty Oil Company regarding the proposed changes to the decant structures for sediment ponds 4, 5 and 6 of the Star Point Mines operation.

The Division received PMC's response to those previous hydrologic questions on July 31, 1984. Review of this information is proceeding and it is hoped that it will also address the majority of the hydrologic questions which remain pursuant to the Division's review of PMC's Unit Train/Loadout Technical Review Response July 5, 1984.

A copy of the latest draft hydrologic review comments from the technical staff are attached for your information. The Division will formally notify PMC of any remaining deficiencies upon completion of the latest technical review. It is anticipated that this review will be completed and a response prepared by August 10, 1984.

Upon finalization of our technical review, the Division will prepare the required decision document and forward its recommendation to the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) seeking their concurrence on this proposed permit revision.

Should you have any questions, please contact me or D. Wayne Hedberg. Thank you for your cooperation and timely responses to our requests for additional information.

Sincerely,

James W. Smith, Jr.
Administrator
Mineral Resource Development
and Reclamation Program

JWS/DWH:btb
cc: Allen Klein, OSM, Denver
Robert Hagen, OSM, Albuquerque
Dave Maxwell, OSM, Denver
Mike Dimitrich, Plateau Mining Company
Kent Krofts, Getty Mining Company, Steamboat
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