

**PLATEAU MINING COMPANY**

A Subsidiary of Cyprus Coal Company  
P.O. Drawer PMC Price, Utah 84501  
Telephone (801) 637-2875

November 20, 1985

**RECEIVED**

NOV 25 1985

DIVISION OF OIL  
& MINING

Mr. Wayne Hedberg  
Division of Oil, Gas & Mining  
355 West North Temple  
3 Triad Center, Suite 350  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

Re: Sediment Pond 2

Dear Wayne:

Due to the unfavorable weather conditions, we are forced to postpone construction of Pond 2 until weather and ground conditions moderate. Given the longrange forecast, we probably will have to complete the project next spring.

We had an on site meeting with a representative of Vaughn Hansen Associates (VHA) today to evaluate conditions. Our hope was that some method of construction could be worked out to allow us to continue the project. Unfortunately, the ground conditions are such that the engineer will not allow construction to continue due to frozen soil conditions, snow cover, excess moisture in the fill materials and temperatures.

The engineer from VHA recommended some measures that will help protect the integrity of the dam and outlet pipes constructed to date. He recommended installing a temporary 12 inch pipe through the trench for the spillway pipe to carry runoff through the dam. He also recommended a silt fence filter be placed at the inlet end of this pipe to collect sediment and prevent it from going into the natural channel below the dam. In addition to these measures, the temporary dam and pond already constructed will help contain runoff until construction can be completed. Snow melt during the winter and early spring should not present much of a problem or concern.

Concerning the Division's concern that three months should have been adequate time to construct the dam, a couple of things should be considered. Firstly, after receiving approval from the Division on August 5, we had to order materials, rent compaction equipment, implement construction survey staking, arrange for construction supervision by an engineer and a compaction testing firm, and remove approximately 5000 cubic yards of sediment from the dam area which was the site of a temporary sediment pond that has been in

Mr. Wayne Hedberg  
November 20, 1985  
Page two

existence for about 5 years. Secondly, weather and ground conditions must be considered. Between September the 3rd and the 11th, we received 1.65 inches of precipitation. Again on September the 18th and 19th, we received another 1.04 inches of precipitation for a total for the month of 2.69 inches. During these times and for several weeks afterward, the conditions in the construction area were unbearable. We had to abandon our efforts until the area dried up enough to continue. Since the dam area is the low spot for the drainage basin, and since the area contained a large volume of sediment from the old temporary pond, the area impounded runoff water and was a muck hole, preventing work for three weeks. Between October the 7th and the 10th, and on October 22nd, we received an additional 1.55 inches of precipitation which delayed us another three weeks. And finally on November the 11th and 12th we received nine inches of snow along with very cold temperatures that brought the project to a halt. Including the snowfall precipitation, we received 5.27 inches of precipitation during the project. All together, we lost three weeks to material shipment, arranging for equipment and engineers, and we lost six weeks because of precipitation which caused unworkable ground conditions, for a total of nine weeks out of the twelve weeks between approval on August 5 and the Division's deadline of October 30.

We at Plateau regret that the project was not completed. The project has cost us a great deal of money for standby time on equipment, and a great deal of problems with scheduling internal equipment and manpower. We hope the temporary controls discussed previously in this letter meet with the Division's approval.

If you need further information please let me know.

Respectfully,



Ben Grimes  
Environmental Coordinator

BG:pb

cc: Tom Wright