

000



STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Oil, Gas & Mining

Norman H. Bangerter, Governor
Dee C. Hansen, Executive Director
Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D., Division Director

355 W. North Temple • 3 Triad Center • Suite 350 • Salt Lake City, UT 84180-1203 • 801-538-5340

December 2, 1985

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

Dear Mr. Grimes:

RE: Approval of Request for Time Extension to Complete
Reconstruction Activities of Pond #2, Star Point Mines,
ACT/007/006, #4, Carbon County, Utah

This letter is forwarded in response to your November 20, 1985 Telefax letter which outlined the circumstances and justification for the delayed construction of sediment pond #2 at the Star Point Mines.

The Division acknowledges that circumstances beyond the operator's control have now precluded the possibility of completing the construction activities for the pond this year. The pond reconstruction will be postponed until weather and ground conditions are favorable to complete the project next spring. The temporary measures to control and minimize erosion and runoff problems as proposed in your November 20, 1985 letter should be adequate to carry through this winter and next spring. This will be field verified by a Division hydrologist in the near future. However, discharges from the temporary treatment control structures would still be subject to the appropriate performance standards and effluent limitations for runoff.

The Division establishes the following timeframes for completing the remaining construction activities for sediment pond #2.

Page 2
Mr. Ben Grimes
ACT/007/006
December 2, 1985

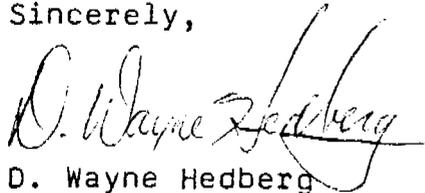
1. Construction activity must recommence as soon as weather and field conditions warrant in the spring of 1986. However, recommencement of construction activities should occur no later than June 1, 1986.
2. Pond reconstruction activities must be complete no later than July 1, 1985.

Any extensions to these deadlines must be received in writing prior to the deadlines outlined above. Extension requests must include the specific conditions or circumstances which would justify granting the same.

If these timeframes are not workable and unacceptable, the Division requests that the operator contact this office immediately upon receipt of this letter for resolution. Please notify the Division, when pond construction begins next spring. If it has not already occurred, the operator will probably need to apply for and obtain a construction permit from the State Department of Health as well.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in finalizing this permitting activity. Should you have any additional concerns or questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



D. Wayne Hedberg
Permit Supervisor/
Reclamation Hydrologist

btb
cc: Lowell Braxton
Joe Helfrich
Tom Wright
8992R-90 & 91



PLATEAU MINING COMPANY

A Subsidiary of Cyprus Coal Company

P.O. Drawer PMG

Price, Utah 84501

Telephone (801) 637-2375

November 20, 1985

*June 1, 86 begin
July 1, 86 complete*

Wayne
Probably need to have people look at Deadlines for "standard" completely when approach O.K'd.

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

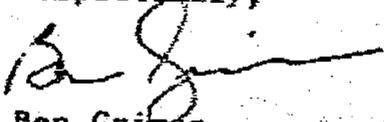
Mr. Wayne Hedberg
November 20, 1985
Page two

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



STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Oil, Gas & Mining

DWH

Norman H. Bangerter, Governor
Dee C. Hansen, Executive Director
Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D., Division Director

355 W. North Temple • 3 Triad Center • Suite 350 • Salt Lake City, UT 84180-1203 • 801-538-5340

November 14, 1985

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

Dear Mr. Grimes:

RE: Approval of Request for Extension of Time to Complete
Reconstruction Activities of Pond #2, Star Point Mines,
ACT/007/006, #4, Carbon County, Utah

This letter is forwarded in response to your November 7, 1985 telefax request for a two-week time extension to complete the approved (August 5, 1985) construction activities associated with sediment pond #2 at the Star Point Mine. This request follows a previous (October 30th) phone request for a one week extension which was granted by letter dated November 4, 1985.

The Division finds the operator's justification (embankment compaction and equipment failure problems) for the two-week extension approvable. Given the current weather conditions, the Division is concerned whether two weeks will be sufficient time to complete the pond construction? If the pond is not completed this month, weather constraints may delay construction until next spring.

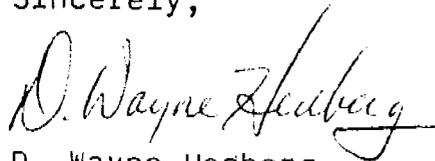
It is our understanding that a temporary runoff control structure has been implemented just upstream from the excavated area of sediment pond #2. This structure is intended to provide a temporary means of controlling surface runoff until pond construction is complete.

Page 2
Mr. Ben Grimes
ACT/007/006
November 14, 1985

It is the Division's opinion that three (3) months should have been adequate to complete the pond construction activities. We request that PMC make every effort to try and complete the construction this year. However, we do not encourage completing the construction if the structural integrity of the impoundment would be jeopardized due to unfavorable working conditions.

Should you have any questions, please call. Please notify us when the pond construction is completed.

Sincerely,



D. Wayne Hedberg
Permit Supervisor/
Reclamation Hydrologist

dwh
cc: Lowell Braxton
Bart Kale
Susan Linner
Tom Wright
8992R-68 & 69