



STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Oil, Gas & Mining

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April 19, 1985

CERTIFIED RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
(P402 457 126)

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

Dear Mr. Mueller:

RE: Conditional Approval of Application for MRP Incidental Boundary Change Revision, Unit Train Loadout Facility, Plateau Mining Company, Star Point Mines, ACT/007/006, #4 Carbon County, Utah

The Division has completed the review of Plateau Mining Company's (PMC) recent (received March 5, 1985) submission entitled, "Unit Train Loadout Incidental Boundary Revision." The following is a brief description of the proposal and the comments and deficiencies which remain to be resolved prior to the issuance of final Division approval of the application:

This application for a minor boundary change revision has been determined to be incidental to the Unit Train Loadout Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP) Revision approved by the Division and the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) on September 28, 1984. This revision consists of three basic parts: (1) the addition of a silo and conveyor transfer point access road; (2) the addition of the area inside the Utah Railway Right-of-Way at the silo location; and, (3) the modification of permit boundary lines to include the area actually needed for facilities associated with the Unit Train Loadout project. A description of each follows:

- (1) Plateau is proposing to use an existing Utah Railway maintenance road which parallels the main rail line and spur line for access to the silo/loadout area. No new surface disturbance will be required for PMC's use of the road.

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If approved, PMC will no longer need that portion of the previously planned silo access road from the sampling building to the conveyor transfer point. This action will result in a net reduction in disturbed area of two acres from the previously approved plan.

Of the 4.79 disturbed acres now proposed, 3.02 acres will be seeded for interim reclamation following completion of the facilities construction. There will be 1.77 acres of disturbed ground for operation areas that will not be reseeded until final reclamation. The disturbed acreage (4.79 acres) represents 2.2 percent of the total disturbance (217.3 acres) existing at the mine site. PMC will perform maintenance of the road as required.

- (2) Area lying within the Utah Railway Right-of-Way and situated between the two parcels of land previously permitted was not included as part of the original permit area. However, PMC's mining activities within this area were previously permitted by DOGM. It has since been determined that the Utah Railway Right-of-Way from the BLM did not give them exclusive use over this area. Therefore, PMC has applied for and is now adding this parcel to their permit area.
- (3) Slight modifications to the previously permitted boundary lines are being proposed to make them reflect the actual disturbed area associated with the loadout facilities. The net result of these boundary line changes is a reduction in the required acreage by 0.14 acres; which includes adding the area in item 2 above. The original permitted area acreage was 25.19 acres; the new total acreage is adjusted to 25.05.

In addition to the basic changes outlined above, the following new facility changes have also been proposed in this application for Division review and approval:

- (a) On page 784-2 the operator proposes to modify the existing refuse collection system by erecting a new 100 ton refuse bin.

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- (b) On page 784-3 (see Map 3) the text makes reference to two 40,000 ton coal stockpiles. One is for bypassed raw coal and one is for cleaned coal. The previous application identified one 60,000 ton clean coal stockpile versus the two proposed above.

Map 3 in the new application, identifies a 40,000 ton stockpile and a 400,000 ton stockpile. The Division is assuming that the revised text (i.e., 40,000 ton) is correct and the map is in error.

- (c) Page 784-4 refers to the stockpile reclaim conveyor which will transmit coal to the sampling and transfer tower. This conveyor is now proposed to be fitted with a self-cleaning magnet and a belt plow. The belt plow will allow for emergency stockpiling in the event the other stockpiles are full.

This new emergency system will include a radial stacking conveyor, feed hopper and a 235 foot reclaim conveyor to discharge coal back onto the main stockpile reclaim system.

- (d) Also on page 784-4 of the new application reference is made to a new laboratory to be constructed in the existing lab/bath house to the south of the preparation plant. In the previous application, this new laboratory would have been a new building to be constructed near the sample transfer tower.

- (e) Page 784-5 and 784-10 outline plans for a new 15,000 gallon water tank to be buried south of the existing stacking tube and 250,000 gallon storage facility. This tank will provide an uninterrupted source of water for the dust suppression system.

- (f) Page 784-11 proposes 3 temporary conveyors which will be installed in 1985 and utilized (until construction completion, 1986) to minimize interference between construction and loading operations during the 1986 construction season. The emergency stockpile facilities are to be used to stockpile coal away from the 1986 construction area and load it out through the silo.

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REVIEW COMMENTS:

UMC 782.14 (c) Compliance Information

This section of the regulations requires a listing of violations received for a period of 3 years preceding the new permit application date (February 21, 1985). On page 782-15 of Volume 1, the applicant refers to Table 1, for a listing of violations from September 1980 to present. This table lists violations received from the Division and their status from March 1980 thru October 1983.

Condition 4-17-85-1-(1)-DWH

PMC must update this list to include all violations referenced under this regulation for the time period from February 21, 1982 to February 21, 1985 (application date). This listing should not be limited to only those violations pertaining to "environmental protection".

UMC 782.15 Right of Entry and Operation Information

Exhibit #6 of the permit application includes a letter from the BLM (dated January 23, 1985) which addresses the lack of BLM authorization to issue PMC approval to utilize the Right-of-Way currently held by the Utah Railway for the road accessing the Unit Train loadout area.

Condition 4-17-85-2-(1)-DWH

PMC must provide a copy of the signed agreement between PMC and the Utah Railway which gives PMC permission to utilize and maintain this road spur to confirm compliance with this section.

UMC 782.18 Personal Injury & Property Damage Insurance Information

The latest permit application refers the reviewer to Appendix 2C of the original permit application for a copy of the certificate of insurance and rider.

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Condition 4-17-85-3-(1)-DWH

The Division requests an updated copy of this certificate to ensure that the policy is current. This action should become a routine practice when PMC receives notice of an update in a pertinent policy which is part of the approved permit.

UMC 782.19 Identification of Other Licenses and Permits

The application contains a copy of the February 25, 1985 Notice of Intent to the State Health Department (revise PSD permit).

Condition 4-17-85-4-(1)-DWH

Please provide a copy of the approval order to this office upon receipt of approval from the agency.

UMC 782.20 Identification of Location of Public Office for Filing Application:

The application contains an old DOGM address. All future correspondence and permit applications must reflect the change of DOGM address:

State of Utah
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

UMC 784.13 Reclamation Plan

Condition 4-17-85-5-(4)-LK

1. (b)(1) Map 10 does not include a detailed timetable for the completion of each major step in the reclamation plan as stated. Please submit this timetable for review and approval.

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2. (b)(5)(i) If seed is broadcast or hydroseeded, seeding must take place prior to mulching. Supplemental mulch may be required on areas stabilized with mulch during the interim. There is some ambiguity as to when seeding will take place. Please be more specific. Also, the operator must identify when and how the seedlings will be planted.
3. (b)(5)(ii) The proposed seed rate is low and must be at least doubled for broadcast or hydroseeding. Also, please provide justification as per UMC 817.112 for the use of Introduced Species, or substitute them for native species (this is not needed for yellow sweetclover).

(b)(5)(iii & iv) As stated above, seeding should be done before mulching if seed is broadcast or hydroseeded.

4. (b)(5)(vi) As with the rest of the mine, the Unit Train area disturbance must also meet a productivity standard. Please revise the proposed plan to include a productivity standard and productivity monitoring. Submit this plan to the Division for review and approval.

TOPSOIL:

Condition 4-17-85-6-(3)-TLP

1. On page 784-17, PMC relates their intentions to disturb a large portion of their current refuse expansion test plots. This proposal has since been modified (see approval letters of March 28th and April 12, 1985). These letters ask for specific information as a condition to the approval of this portion of the operation. Since page 784-17 addresses this same area, it must likewise be amended to correspond to the requirements of these letters and the May 22, 1985 deadline as mutually agreed upon at our April 17, 1985 meeting.

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UMC 817.22 Topsoil: Removal

2. On page 784-19, PMC discusses topsoil from the featherlegs type and the depth of topsoil and subsoil in this type. PMC fails to address not segregating topsoil from subsoil in this type. Either segregation must be addressed and performed or a justification for not doing so must be provided.
3. PMC on page 784-18 indicates that soil depths vary up to an maximum depth of 8 inches but states that only 6 inches of topsoil will actually be removed. This section must be amended to demonstrate that all available topsoil materials will be removed. Supervision of such activity must also be addressed.

This topsoil information must be provided and approved by the Division prior to disturbance of the same or within 30 days of receipt of this notice, whichever comes first.

UMC 784.13 (UMC 805, 806) Bonding

The applicant has provided a revised bond estimate for the previously approved Unit Train Loadout proposal under Exhibit 5 (\$ 361,680). This adjustment reflects the proposed changes in the plan pursuant to this application for Incidental Boundary Change. The Division currently holds a reclamation bond for the entire mine operation (which includes the Unit Train Loadout) in the amount of \$ 3,246,317. The last bond rider adjustment was received by the Division in September of 1984. The applicant has committed to amend the current bond to reflect 1985 dollars to include the latest adjustments to the bond estimate for the Unit Train revision.

A condition of approval for the original Mining and Reclamation Plan permit application required the company to provide an annual reclamation surety adjustment. An annual summary is due 90 days prior to the anniversary date of the permit approval (i.e., by October 26th of each year of the permit term). This annual summary shall detail all modifications and/or changes which have occurred in the past year, as well as those projected for the upcoming year. PMC has not provided the annual adjustment for 1985 to date.

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Condition 4-17-85-7-(1)-RH

Plateau must submit the annual summary and/or revised bond for the entire permitted mine complex (in 1985 dollars) to the Division by June 1, 1985.

UMC 784.14 (UMC 817.45, 817.46, and 817.163) Protection of the Hydrologic Balance

Since the original approval for this proposal, Plateau has made essentially two changes which may affect the hydrologic balance: (1) minor location change of the conveyor; and (2) proposed use of the spur road along the railroad right-of-way which accesses the Unit Train loadout area.

Division hydrologists have looked at the pond capacities for Ponds #6 and 8 and have determined them to be sized adequately for all additional disturbed runoff. The proposed change in the location of the access road is appropriate as the previous road would disturb a new area and have a steeper grade (5 - 10 percent) with all the associated erosion and stability problems. The use of the access road along the railroad will disturb no new area and have a significantly lower grade (less than one percent).

Treatment of runoff from this access road will be via drop boxes with sediment catch basins (see maps: #6 & 15). Additionally, a straw bale or silt fence has been proposed for treatment of drainage from Ditch 30 (essentially the last leg of the access road drainage). The road surface is to be six inches of gravel with a one foot berm to control drainage from the road surface. Approximately 800 feet of this road will drain to sediment pond #8 for treatment.

Because PMC has now formally included the access road into their mine permit area and assumed responsibility for maintenance of the same the following condition applies:

Condition 4-17-85-8-(1)-RS

Plateau must provide plans to the Division for sediment control from the out slopes of the access road leading to the silo area [UMC 817.163(a)(2)]. The intent of this condition is to provide a silt fence (or similar appropriate treatment measure) along the out slope toe and to provide diligent contemporaneous reclamation of the fill slope (i.e., heavy seeding and mulching).

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UMC 784.15 Postmining Land Uses

On page 784-53 of the application, a reference is made to an agreement with Utah Railway which permits PMC to utilize and maintain the existing spur road which parallels the main rail line and provides access to the Unit Train loadout area. The text also states that upon cessation of mining operations the responsibility for continued use and maintenance of the road will be turned back to the railroad.

Condition 4-17-85-9-(1)-DWH

The applicant must provide a copy of this signed agreement which confirms this arrangement before the Division can determine compliance with this section.

Unless otherwise indicated, responses to all deficiencies and conditions identified above must be received within 30 days of receipt of this approval (no later than May 20, 1985).

Thank you for your cooperation and attention to these remaining concerns. Should you have questions or comments please contact me or D. Wayne Hedberg of the permitting staff.

Sincerely,



L. P. Braxton
Administrator
Mineral Resource Development
and Reclamation Program

DWH/btb
cc: Allen Klein
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