



STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Oil, Gas & Mining

ACT/007/006 file
1985
Norman H. Bangerter, Governor
Dee C. Hansen, Executive Director
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March 26, 1985

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

RE: Determination as to the Necessity of Further Protection of Soil
Material at the Refuse Pile Expansion, Plateau Mining Company,
ACT/007/006, Carbon County, Utah

This correspondence is intended to resolve the issue of whether any topsoil remains at the refuse pile expansion site which is worthy of salvage as per my commitment in my letter of February 15, 1985.

Basically, with the sum total of the information you have provided in letters of November 8, 1984 and March 6, 1985 has addressed information required in the Division letters of November 2, 1984 is now available to the Division thus allowing the following decision to be rendered. Since PMC has demonstrated that it has enough soil material available to supply a redistribution depth of 12 inches the material which has been at issue can now be determined as not being critical to the overall success of reclamation at the Plateau mining operation. That is to say that the benefits to be obtained from the volume of potentially available soil substitute material are insignificant when compared to the cost of its removal and handling. Further, there is a potential that the quality of the material in question would be inferior to pad materials which will receive the soil redistribution keeping in mind that like materials are commonly cited as substitute materials in similar mines along the Wasatch plateau.

It is my opinion as soil scientist for the Division that the violation was properly issued due to the unwillingness of PMC to take adequate measures to protect the material in question until such time as the information was available to allow for the above determination to be made. Further, I feel obliged to take this opportunity to request that should similar matters come to our mutual attention in the future that all attendant dialogue be conducted in a strictly objective manner as it will greatly enhance the efficiency of problem resolution.