PLATEAU MINING COMPANY
Subsidiary of Cyprus Coal Company
P.O. Drawer PMC
Price, Utah 84501

0003

Document Information Form

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From:

Person

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Date Sent: MAY 14 1986

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NOTICE OF INTENT TO EXPLORE

cc:

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NOTICE OF INTENT TO EXPLORE

LESS THAN 250 TONS

EXPLORATION PERMIT 86-1

FILE COPY

PLATEAU MINING COMPANY

ACT/007/006

MAY 14, 1986

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EXPLANATION OF EXPLORATION PROGRAM 86-1

The Plateau Mining Company recently acquired coal reserves in a portion of Section 18, Township 15 South, Range 8 East from U.S. Fuel Company. In order to determine coal mineability in the area, it is necessary to drill three exploration holes in the block.

The coal is fee reserve and the surface is owned by U.S. Fuel Company. Plateau acquired rights with the reserves to use the surface for purposes of mining.

Because little is known about groundwater in the block, we are proposing to make the drill holes into groundwater monitoring wells based on concurrent hydrologic investigations being conducted by our hydrology consultant for renewal of our current mining and reclamation permit, and for permitting of the surface above the U.S. Fuel property.

This application addresses the pertinent requirements of UMC 776, UMC 815, and UMC 817.

UMC 776.11 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS: EXPLORATION OF LESS THAN 250 TONS

(a) ANY PERSON WHO INTENDS TO CONDUCT COAL EXPLORATION DURING WHICH LESS THAN 250 TONS OF COAL WILL BE REMOVED IN THE AREA TO BE EXPLORED SHALL, PRIOR TO CONDUCTING THE EXPLORATION, FILE WITH THE DIVISION A WRITTEN NOTICE OF INTENTION TO EXPLORE.

(b) THE NOTICE SHALL INCLUDE-

(1) THE NAME, ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE PERSON SEEKING TO EXPLORE:

Response:

Plateau Mining Company
P.O. Drawer PMC
Price, Utah 84501
(801) 637-2875

(2) THE NAME, ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE REPRESENTATIVE WHO WILL BE PRESENT AT, AND RESPONSIBLE FOR CONDUCTING THE EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES:

Response:

Greg Hunt
Plateau Mining Company
P.O. Drawer PMC
Price, Utah 84501
(801) 637-2875

*(3) A PRECISE DESCRIPTION AND MAP, AT A SCALE OF 1:24,000 OR LARGER, OF THE EXPLORATION AREA;

Response:

Exploration will consist of three exploratory drill holes located in Section 18, Township 15 South, Range 8 East, Salt Lake Base and Meridian as shown on Map 1 enclosed.

(4) A STATEMENT OF THE PERIOD OF INTENDED EXPLORATION;

Response:

Exploration will commence on or about June 13, 1986 and will be completed on or about August 31, 1986.

*(5) IF THE SURFACE IS OWNED BY A PERSON OTHER THAN THE PERSON WHO INTENDS TO EXPLORE, A DESCRIPTION OF THE BASIS UPON WHICH THE PERSON WHO WILL EXPLORE CLAIMS THE RIGHT TO ENTER SUCH AREA FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING EXPLORATION AND RECLAMATION; AND

Response:

The surface is owned by U.S. Fuel Company. The Plateau Mining Company has entered into an agreement to buy the coal reserves beneath the surface dated December 13, 1985.

Plateau has the right to enter upon the land for purposes of permitting and mining as can be seen in Article 1(a) of the agreement as follows:

Should be R 8 East

> THE RIGHT OF INGRESS AND EGRESS TO THE SURFACE OF SECTION 18, TOWNSHIP 15 SOUTH, RANGE 18 EAST, SLM, LIMITED TO SUCH USE OF SAID SURFACE AS MAY BE REASONABLY NECESSARY FOR MINING COAL FROM THE DESCRIBED AREA OF SECTION 18, TOWNSHIP 15 SOUTH, RANGE 8 EAST, SLM, OR TO COMPLY WITH PERMITS ISSUED BY STATE FEDERAL AND LOCAL REGULATORY AUTHORITIES RELATIVE TO SAID LAND AND

(6) A DESCRIPTION OF THE PRACTICES PROPOSED TO BE FOLLOWED TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT FROM ADVERSE IMPACTS AS A RESULT OF THE EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES.

Response:

This application includes responses to UMC 815.11, UMC 776.12, UMC 815.15, UMC 817.13-15 and UMC 817.171-.176, as suggested by Mr. Wayne Hedberg-DOGM, 2/18/86. This determination is based on the interpretation by the Division that UMC 817.11(a) requires addressing UMC 776.12 and UMC 815.15 when "exploration...substantially disturbs the natural land surface and in which 250 tons or less of coal are removed." "Substantial disturbance", according to Mr. Hedberg includes construction of access roads to drill sites. In this case, approximately 1.4 miles of road will be constructed to access drill sites.

(c) ANY PERSON WHO CONDUCTS COAL EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION WHICH SUBSTANTIALLY DISTURB THE NATURAL LAND SURFACE SHALL COMPLY WITH UMC 815.

Response:

Response to UMC 815 is included as a part of this submittal. UMC 815.11(a) requires that UMC 776.12 be addressed; this submittal addresses UMC 776.12.

UMC 776.12 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS: EXPLORATION OF MORE THAN 250 TONS

ANY PERSON WHO INTENDS TO CONDUCT COAL EXPLORATION IN WHICH MORE THAN 250 TONS OF COAL ARE REMOVED IN THE AREA TO BE EXPLORED, SHALL, PRIOR TO CONDUCTING THE EXPLORATION, OBTAIN THE WRITTEN APPROVAL OF THE DIVISION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING:

(a) CONTENTS OF APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL. EACH APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL SHALL CONTAIN, AT A MINIMUM, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION-

(1) THE NAME, ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE APPLICANT;

Response:

This section has been addressed under UMC 776.11(b)(1).

(2) THE NAME, ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE APPLICANT WHO WILL BE PRESENT AT AND BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CONDUCTING THE EXPLORATION;

Response:

This section has been addressed under UMC 776.11(b)(2).

(3) AN EXPLORATION AND RECLAMATION OPERATIONS PLAN, INCLUDING-

(i) A NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED EXPLORATION AREA, CROSS-REFERENCED TO THE MAP REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (a)(5) OF THIS SECTION, INCLUDING SURFACE TOPOGRAPHY; GEOLOGICAL, SURFACE WTER, AND OTHER PHYSICAL FEATURES; VEGETATIVE COVER; THE DISTRIBUTION AND IMPORTANT HABITATS OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PLANTS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ANY ENDANGERED OR THREATENED SPECIES LISTED PURSUANT TO THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OF 1973 (16 U.S.C. SEC 1531 ET SEQ.); DISTRICTS, SITES, BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES OR OBJECTS LISTED ON OR ELIGIBLE FOR LISTING ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES; AND KNOWN ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES LOCATED WITHIN THE PROPOSED EXPLORATION AREA;

Response:

Three drill holes are planned in Section 18, Township 15 South, Range 8 East, Salt Lake Base and Meridian as shown on Maps 1, 2, 3 and 4 enclosed. These maps show the surface topography; Sheet 1 shows surface geology, surface water and other physical features. Vegetative cover is shown on Sheets 2, 3 and 4 and wildlife information is shown on Exhibit C.

There are no threatened or endangered species in Section 18 according to Don Archer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (phone-May 8, 1986). Plateau in conjunction with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, has identified three golden eagle nest sites in the vicinity of proposed exploration hole 86-18-3. Two sites, as shown on Sheet 2, are within a 350 foot radius of the hole. Site A was first identified in 1983 as an old, inactive stick nest; in both 1984 and 1985 this nest site was also inactive. Site B was identified in 1984 as an inactive golden eagle stick nest; it also was inactive in 1985. Nest site C was first identified in 1984 as an active, tended golden eagle stick nest; in 1985, it was inactive.

Exploration Hole 86-18-3 will be the last of the three holes drilled; a probable starting date for this hole is July 15. This late date would fall after young birds have fledged and left the nest sites, if any of the sites are active.

Plateau will investigate all three nest sites by the 15th of June to document bird activity. A report will be prepared and forwarded to the Division prior to commencement of drilling activities.

Exploration Hole 86-18-2 lies approximately 2400 feet from Nest Site A and 2700 feet from Nest Site B. Given a starting date of June 15 for this hole, young birds should be fledged and gone from the nest (Miles Moretti, DWR Non-Game Manager, May 9, 1986). The site investigation mentioned previously will document bird activity at the sites. Before activities within a one-half mile radius of any active nest site begins, a report will be made to the Division.

Exploration Hole 86-18-1 lies more than one-half mile from the nearest nest site. No special effort is necessary regarding this hole.

There are no known sites, buildings, structures or objects listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places located in the exploration area. Before road construction begins, the road corridor and drill sites will be investigated for sites by a qualified expert and a report will be forwarded to the Division.

(ii) A NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE METHODS TO BE USED TO CONDUCT COAL EXPLORATION AND RECLAMATION, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE TYPES AND USES OF EQUIPMENT, DRILLING, BLASTING, ROAD OR OTHER ACCESS ROUTE CONSTRUCTION, AND EXCAVATED EARTH AND OTHER DEBRIS DISPOSAL ACTIVITIES;

Response:

Three exploration/groundwater monitoring wells are planned in Section 18, Township 15 South, Range 8 East, SLB&M. Access to the drill sites will be by U.S. Forest Service development roads, private roads and new roads to be constructed for drilling. Road construction will be by the sidecast method which is easily reclaimed to predisturbance configuration. Drill pads, mud pits and any other associated areas will be stripped of topsoil prior to drilling. Topsoil will be stockpiled and protected during drilling activities, and the area will be reclaimed to as near the original contour as possible. Additional plans are discussed in Section UMC 815 to follow:

What slope?

Equipment to be used is as follows:

Road Construction:
Crawler Dozers
Backhoe
Logging Equipment

Drilling Equipment:
2000 foot capacity rotary rig, air and mud, mounted on tandem axle truck.
Water Truck
Equipment Trucks
Personnel Truck
Geophysical Logging Truck
No blasting is anticipated for the project.

(iii) AN ESTIMATED TIMETABLE FOR CONDUCTING AND COMPLETING EACH PHASE OF THE EXPLORATION AND RECLAMATION;

Response:

The following timetable is planned:

Road Construction
Start - June 13, 1986
Completion - June 20, 1986

Drilling
Start - June 20, 1986
Completion - August 30, 1986

Reclamation
Start - September 1, 1986
Completion - September 20, 1986

(iv) A DESCRIPTION OF THE MEASURES TO BE USED TO COMPLY WITH THE APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS OF UMC 815;

Response;

The requirements of UMC 815 are addressed following this section. Measures will be taken to prevent any unnecessary degredation of the environment.

(4) THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE OWNER OF RECORD OF THE SURFACE LAND AND OF THE SUBSURFACE MINERAL ESTATE OF THE AREA TO BE EXPLORED;

Response:

Surface Owner:
United States Fuel Company
6917 Collins Avenue
Miami Beach, Florida 33141

Subsurface Mineral Owner-Coal:

Plateau Mining Company
7200 South Alton Way
P.O. Box 3299
Englewood, Colorado 80155

Local Address:
P.O. Drawer PMC
Price, Utah 84501

(5) A MAP AT A SCALE OF 1:24,000 OR LARGER, SHOWING THE AREAS OF LAND TO BE SUBSTANTIALLY DISTURBED BY THE PROPOSED EXPLORATION AND RECLAMATION. THE MAP SHALL SPECIFICALLY SHOW EXISTING ROADS, OCCUPIED DWELLINGS, AND PIPELINES; PROPOSED LOCATION OF TRENCHES, ROADS, AND OTHER ACCESS ROUTES AND STRUCTURES TO BE CONSTRUCTED; THE LOCATION OF LAND EXCAVATIONS TO BE CONDUCTED; WATER OR COAL EXPLORATORY HOLES AND WELLS TO BE DRILLED OR ALTERED; EARTH OR DEBRIS DISPOSAL AREAS; EXISTING BODIES OF SURFACE WATER; HISTORIC, TOPOGRAPHIC, CULTURAL AND DRAINAGE FEATURES; AND HABITATS OF ANY ENDANGERED OR THREATENED SPECIES LISTED PURSUANT TO THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OF 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 ET SEQ.); AND

Response:

Maps are enclosed showing the items listed; see Sheets 1, 2, 3 and 4.

(6) IF THE SURFACE IS OWNED BY A PERSON OTHER THAN THE APPLICANT, A DESCRIPTION OF THE BASIS UPON WHICH THE APPLICANT CLAIMS THE RIGHT TO ENTER THAT LAND FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING EXPLORATION AND RECLAMATION.

Response:

Previously addressed under UMC 776.11(b)(5).

(b) PUBLIC NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT. PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE APPLICATION WITH THE DIVISION SHALL BE POSTED BY THE APPLICANT FOR 30 DAYS SUBSEQUENT TO THE DIVISION'S DETERMINATION OF THE APPLICATION'S COMPLETENESS AT THE COURTHOUSE OR OTHER PUBLIC OFFICE DESIGNATED BY THE DIVISION IN THE VICINITY OF THE PROPOSED EXPLORATION AREA.

(2) THE PUBLIC NOTICE SHALL STATE THE NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS OF THE PERSON SEEKING APPROVAL, THE DATE OF FILING OF THE APPLICATION, THE ADDRESS OF THE REGULATORY AUTHORITY AT WHICH WRITTEN COMMENTS ON THE APPLICATION MAY BE SUBMITTED, THE CLOSING DATE OF THE COMMENT PERIOD, AND A DESCRIPTION OF THE GENERAL AREA OF EXPLORATION.

(3) ANY PERSON WITH AN INTEREST WHICH IS OR MAY BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO FILE WRITTEN COMMENTS ON THE APPLICATION WITHIN REASONABLE TIME LIMITS.

Response:

Public notice of this application will be posted at the location designated by the Division on the date of this submittal, May 14, 1986.

UMC 815.15 PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR COAL EXPLORATION

THE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS IN THIS SECTION ARE APPLICABLE TO COAL EXPLORATION WHICH SUBSTANTIALLY DISTURBS LAND SURFACE.

(a) HABITATS OF UNIQUE VALUE FOR FISH, WILDLIFE, AND OTHER RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES AND AREAS IDENTIFIED IN UMC 784.21(b) SHALL NOT BE DISTURBED DURING COAL EXPLORATION.

(b) THE PERSON WHO CONDUCTS COAL EXPLORATION SHALL, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, MEASURE IMPORTANT ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE EXPLORATION AREA DURING THE OPERATIONS, TO MINIMIZE ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE TO THE AREA AND TO PROVIDE SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION FOR ANY PERMIT APPLICATION THAT PERSON MAY SUBMIT UNDER SUBCHAPTER G.

Response:

The applicant will monitor environmental characteristics of the exploration area during operations to minimize environmental damage and to provide information for any permit application submitted under Subchapter G.

(c)(1) VEHICULAR TRAVEL ON OTHER THAN ESTABLISHED GRADED AND SURFACED ROADS SHALL BE LIMITED BY THE PERSON WHO CONDUCTS COAL EXPLORATION TO THAT ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO CONDUCT THE EXPLORATION. TRAVEL SHALL BE CONFINED TO GRADED AND SURFACE ROADS DURING PERIODS WHEN EXCESSIVE DAMAGE TO VEGETATION OR RUTTING OF THE LAND SURFACE COULD RESULT.

Response:

Vehicular travel will be restricted to established roads and new roads constructed to access drill sites.

(2) ANY NEW ROAD IN THE EXPLORATION AREA WHICH IS USED LESS THAN 6 MONTHS SHALL COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF 30 CFR 816.170-816.176. IF THE ROAD WILL BE USED LONGER THAN 6 MONTHS, IT SHALL COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF UMC 817.150-817.166.

Response:

At the time of promulgation of these regulations, 30CFR 816.170-816.176 detailed requirements for Class III roads. These regulations followed suit and included UMC 817.170-817.176 which are substantially the same as 30CFR 816.170-816.176. This submittal addresses UMC 817.170-817.176 following this section.

(3) EXISTING ROADS MAY BE USED FOR EXPLORATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING:

(i) ALL APPLICABLE STATE, FEDERAL, AND LOCAL REQUIREMENTS SHALL BE MET.

(ii) IF THE ROAD IS SIGNIFICANTLY ALTERED FOR EXPLORATION, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, CHANGE OF GRADE, WIDENING, OR CHANGE OF ROUTE, OR IF USE OF THE ROAD FOR EXPLORATION CONTRIBUTES ADDITIONAL

SUSPENDED SOLIDS TO STREAMFLOW OR RUNOFF, THEN PARAGRAPH (g) OF THIS SECTION SHALL APPLY TO ALL AREAS OF THE ROAD WHICH ARE ALTERED OR WHICH RESULT IN SUCH ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

(iii) IF THE ROAD IS SIGNIFICANTLY ALTERED FOR EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES AND WILL REMAIN AS A PERMANENT ROAD AFTER EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED, THE PERSON CONDUCTING EXPLORATION SHALL ENSURE THAT THE REQUIREMENTS OF UMC 817.150-817.166, AS APPROPRIATE, ARE MET FOR THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, ALTERATION, AND MAINTENANCE OF THE ROAD.

Response:

Existing roads will be used to access the exploration area. Forest Service development roads comprise the majority of the roads. A road use permit with the Manti-LaSal National Forest is in effect for a portion of the roads, and is in the process of being modified to include all of the forest roads necessary for this exploration. The Division was forwarded a copy of the exploration permit application involved with the existing road use permit by Getty Coal Company on June 21, 1985. Plateau has acquired the road use permit from Getty Coal Company and accepts all requirements of same.

No significant alteration of existing roads is to be required for this program.

(4) PROMPTLY AFTER EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED, EXISTING ROADS USED DURING EXPLORATION SHALL BE RECLAIMED EITHER-

(i) TO A CONDITION EQUAL TO OR BETTER THAN THEIR PRE-EXPLORATION CONDITION; OR

(ii) TO THE CONDITION REQUIRED FOR PERMANENT ROADS UNDER UMC 817.150-8917.166, AS APPROPRIATE.

Response:

Existing roads will be reclaimed to the pre-exploration condition. A reclamation bond is in place with the Forest Service to cover forest development roads. The agreement with U.S. Fuel Company obligates Plateau to reclaim roads constructed on U.S. FUEL property.

(d) IF EXCAVATIONS, ARTIFICIAL FLAT AREAS, OR EMBANKMENTS ARE CREATED DURING EXPLORATION, THESE AREAS SHALL BE RETURNED TO THE APPROXIMATELY ORIGINAL CONTOUR PROMPTLY AFTER SUCH FEATURES ARE NO LONGER NEEDED FOR COAL EXPLORATION.

Response:

Drill pads will be constructed at each site and will consist of a level area approximately 8000 square feet in size. Mud pits will be constructed within the pad area, and will consist of a pit approximately 20 feet by 20 feet by 8 feet deep. The pads and pits will be reclaimed at the end of the exploration program.

(e) TOPSOIL SHALL BE REMOVED, STORED, AND REDISTRIBUTED ON DISTURBED AREAS AS NECESSARY TO ASSURE SUCCESSFUL REVEGETATION OR AS REQUIRED BY THE DIVISION.

Response:

Topsoil will be removed from the drill pads, stockpiled and redistributed upon final reclamation.

(f) REVEGETATION OF AREAS DISTURBED BY COAL EXPLORATION SHALL BE PERFORMED BY THE PERSON WHO CONDUCTS THE EXPLORATION, OR HIS OR HER AGENT. IF MORE THAN 250 TONS OF COAL ARE REMOVED FROM THE EXPLORATION AREA, ALL REVEGETATION SHALL BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE PLAN APPROVED BY THE DIVISION AND CARRIED OUT IN A MANNER THAT ENCOURAGES PROMPT VEGETATIVE COVER AND RECOVERY OF PRODUCTIVITY LEVELS COMPATIBLE WITH APPROVED POST EXPLORATION LAND USE AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING:

(1) ALL DISTURBED LANDS SHALL BE SEEDED OR PLANTED TO THE SAME SEASONAL VARIETY NATIVE TO THE DISTURBED AREA. IF BOTH THE PRE-EXPLORATION AND POST-EXPLORATION LAND USES ARE INTENSIVE AGRICULTURE, PLANTING OF THE CROPS NORMALLY GROWN WILL MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

(2) THE VEGETATIVE COVER SHALL BE CAPABLE OF STABILIZING THE SOIL SURFACE IN REGARDS TO EROSION.

Response:

All disturbed areas will be seeded with the seed mix shown on Table 1; application rates are also shown on Table 1. The drill sites will be reclaimed as follows: Mud pits will be backfilled, the area will be ripped, topsoil will be redistributed leaving a roughened surface and the seed mixture will be applied by hand and raked in. No mulch will be used as the roughened surface and the raked in seed mix will insure proper moisture retention and erosion control.

(g) WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SMALL AND TEMPORARY DIVERSIONS OF OVERLAND FLOW OF WATER AROUND NEW ROADS, DRILL PADS, AND SUPPORT FACILITIES, NO EPHEMERAL, INTERMITTENT OR PERENNIAL STREAM SHALL BE DIVERTED DURING COAL EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES. OVERLAND FLOW OF WATER SHALL BE DIVERTED IN A MANNER THAT-

(1) PREVENTS EROSION;

(2) TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE USING THE BEST TECHNOLOGY CURRENTLY AVAILABLE, PREVENTS ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF SUSPENDED SOLIDS TO STREAMFLOW OR RUNOFF OUTSIDE THE EXPLORATION AREA; AND

(3) COMPLIES WITH ALL OTHER APPLICABLE STATE OR FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS.

Response:

No ephemeral, intermittent or perennial streams are located in the exploration area. Any wet areas will be stabilized with rock and/or culverts as necessary.

Measures will be taken as necessary to prevent contributions of suspended solids to runoff outside of the exploration area using the best technology availabe as follows, but not limited to: water bars, silt fences, straw bales, and ditches.

(h) EACH EXPLORATION HOLE, BOREHOLE, WELL, OR OTHER EXPOSED UNDERGROUND OPENING CREATED DURING EXPLORATION MUST MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF UMC 817.13, 817.14, and 817.15.

Response:

UMC 817.13, 817.14, and 817.15 will be met according to the following:

UMC 817.13 CASING AND SEALING OF EXPOSED UNDERGROUND OPENINGS: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

EACH EXPLORATION HOLE, OTHER DRILL HOLE OR BOREHOLE, SHAFT, WELL, OR OTHER EXPOSED UNDERGROUND OPENING SHALL BE CASED, LINED, OR OTHERWISE MANAGED AS APPROVED BY THE DIVISION TO PREVENT ACID OR OTHER TOXIC DRAINAGE FROM ENTERING GROUND AND SURFACE WATERS, TO MINIMIZE DISTURBANCE TO THE PREVAILING HYDROLOGIC BALANCE AND TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF PEOPLE, LIVESTOCK, FISH AND WILDLIFE, AND MACHINERY IN THE MINE PLAN AND ADJACENT AREA. EACH EXPLORATION HOLE, DRILL HOLE OR BOREHOLE OR WELL THAT IS UNCOVERED OR EXPOSED BY MINING ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PERMIT AREA SHALL BE PERMANENTLY CLOSED, UNLESS APPROVED FOR WATER MONITORING OR OTHERWISE MANAGED IN A MANNER APPROVED BY THE DIVISION. USE OF A DRILLED HOLE OR MONITORING WELL AS A WATER WELL MUST MEET THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION UMC 817.53 OF THIS PART. THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO HOLES DRILLED AND USED FOR BLASTING, IN THE AREA AFFECTED BY SURFACE OPERATIONS.

Response:

Each exploration hole will be cased. No acid or toxic drainage exists in the exploration area. Exploration holes or wells exposed during mining will be permanently closed unless the hole is a monitoring well, in which case, it will be sealed at the mine level for further use as a monitoring well. No monitoring wells will be used as a water well in the future.

UMC 817.14 CASING AND SEALING OF UNDERGROUND OPENINGS: TEMPORARY

(a) EACH MINE ENTRY WHICH IS TEMPORARILY INACTIVE, BUT HAS A FURTHER PROJECTED USEFUL SERVICE UNDER THE APPROVED PERMIT APPLICATION, SHALL BE PROTECTED BY BARRICADES OR OTHER COVERING DEVICES, FENCED, AND POSTED WITH SIGNS, TO PREVENT ACCESS INTO THE ENTRY AND TO IDENTIFY THE HAZARDOUS NATURE OF THE OPENING. THESE DEVICES SHALL BE PERIODICALLY INSPECTED AND MAINTAINED IN GOOD OPERATING CONDITION BY THE PERSON WHO CONDUCTS THE UNDERGROUND COAL MINING ACTIVITIES.

(b) EACH EXPLORATION HOLE, OTHER DRILL HOLE OR BOREHOLE, SHAFT, WELL, AND OTHER EXPOSED UNDERGROUND OPENING WHICH HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED IN THE APPROVED PERMIT APPLICATION FOR USE TO RETURN UNDERGROUND DEVELOPMENT WASTE, COAL PROCESSING WASTE OR WATER TO UNDERGROUND WORKINGS, OR TO BE

USED TO MONITOR GROUNDWATER CONDITIONS, SHALL BE TEMPORARILY SEALED UNTIL ACTUAL USE.

Response:

Groundwater monitoring wells will be fitted with a lockable cap to prevent physical damage to humans or animals, and to protect the integrity of the well.

UMC 817.15 CASING AND SEALING OF UNDERGROUND OPENINGS: PERMANENT

WHEN NO LONGER NEEDED FOR MONITORING OR OTHER USE APPROVED BY THE DIVISION UPON A FINDING OF NO ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL OR HEALTH AND SAFETY EFFECTS, OR UNLESS APPROVED FOR TRANSFER AS A WATER WELL UNDER SECTION UMC 817.53, EACH SHAFT, DRIFT, ADIT, TUNNEL, EXPLORATORY HOLE, ENTRYWAY OR OTHER OPENING TO THE SURFACE FROM UNDERGROUND SHALL BE CAPPED, SELED, BACKFILLED, OR OTHERWISE PROPERLY MANAGED, AS REQUIRED BY THE DIVISION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTIONS UMC 817.13 and 817.50 AND CONSISTENT WITH 30 CFR 75.1711. PERMANENT CLOSURE MEASURES SHALL BE DESIGNED TO PREVENT ACCESS TO THE MINE WORKINGS BY PEOPLE, LIVESTOCK, FISH AND WILDLIFE, MACHINERY, AND TO KEEP ACID OR OTHER TOXIC DRAINAGE FROM ENTERING GROUND OR SURFACE WATERS.

Response:

When no longer needed, exploration holes and monitoring wells will be sealed from the bottom of the hole to the top with cement.

UMC 815.15 PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR COAL EXPLORATION (CONTINUED)

(i) ALL FACILITIES AND EQIUPMENT SHALL BE REMOVED FROM THE EXPLORATION AREA PROMPTLY WHEN THEY ARE NO LONGER NEEDED FOR EXPLORATION, EXCEPT FOR THOSE FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT THAT THE DIVISION DETERMINES MAY REMAIN TO-

(1) PROVIDE ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY DATA;

(2) REDUCE OR CONTROL THE ON- AND OFF-SITE EFFECTS OF THE EXPLORATION ACTIVITES; OR

(3) FACILITATE FUTURE SURFACE MINING AND RECLAMATION OPERATIONS BY THE PERSON CONDUCTING THE EXPLORATION, UNDER AN APPROVED PERMIT.

Response:

All facilities and equipment except for groundwater monitoring well equipment will be removed before final reclamation. Monitoring well equipment will consist of hole casing and monitoring pipes within the casing, with a lockable cap.

(j) COAL EXPLORATION SHALL BE CONDUCTED IN A MANNER WHICH MINIMIZES DISTURBANCE OF THE PREVAILING HYDROLOGIC BALANCE, AND SHALL INCLUDE SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES SUCH AS THOSE LISTED IN UMC 817.45 OR SEDIMENTATION PONDS WHICH COMPLY WITH UMC 817.46. THE DIVISION MAY SPECIFY ADDITIONAL MEASURES WHICH SHALL BE ADOPTED BY THE PERSON ENGAGED IN COAL EXPLORATION.

Response:

Exploration will be conducted minimizing disturbance to the prevailing hydrologic balance. Methods will be implemented as necessary, including but not limited to the following:

1. Disturbing the least amount of area possible.

2. Using silt fence and straw bales to control sediment loss.

3. Reclaiming and revegetating disturbed areas as soon as possible after exploration activities.

4. Using water bars, ditches and/or culverts to control overland flow.

(k) TOXIC- OR ACID-FORMING MATERIALS SHALL BE HANDLED AND DISPOSED OF IN ACCORDANCE WITH UMC 817.48 AND 817.103. IF SPECIFIED BY THE DIVISION, ADDITIONAL MEASURES SHALL BE ADOPTED BY THE PERSON ENGAGED IN COAL EXPLORATION.

Response:

There will be no toxic or acid-forming materials involved in this program.

**UMC 817.171 ROADS: CLASS III: LOCATION

**(a) CLASS III ROADS SHALL BE LOCATED ON RIDGES OR ON THE MOST STABLE AVAILABLE SLOPES TO MINIMIZE EROSION.

Response:

The location of roads to be constructed are shown on Maps 2, 3 and 4. They will be located on ridge tops where possible, and on stable sideslopes.

**(b) NO PART OF ANY CLASS III ROAD SHALL BE LOCATED IN THE CHANNEL OF AN INTERMITTENT OR PERENNIAL STREAM UNLESS SPECIFICALLY APPROVED BY THE DIVISION.

Response:

There are no intermittent or perennial streams in the area. Any wet areas will be stabilized with rock fill or culverts as necessary.

**(c) STREAM FORDS ARE PROHIBITED UNLESS THEY ARE APPROVED BY THE DIVISION AS TEMPORARY ROUTES ACROSS EPHEMERAL OR INTERMITTENT STREAMS THAT WILL NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT STREAM SEDIMENTATION OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES. ALL OTHER STREAM CROSSINGS SHALL BE MADE USING TEMPORARY BRIDGES, CULVERTS, OR OTHER STRUCTURES DESIGNED, CONSTRUCTED, AND MAINTAINED TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF UMC 817.173.

Response:

Not applicable.

**(d) CLASS III ROADS SHALL BE LOCATED TO MINIMIZE DOWNSTREAM SEDIMENTATION AND FLOODING.

Response:

Roads will be located to minimize sedimentation.

**(e) NOT LATER THAN THE DATE A PERMIT APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED TO THE DIVISION FOR UNDERGROUND COAL MINING ACTIVITIES FOR WHICH A CLASS III ROAD IS PROPOSED, THE LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED ROAD SHALL BE CLEARLY MARKED IN THE FIELD BY FLAGS OR STAKES TO ENABLE THE DIVISION TO PERFORM ONSITE REVIEW.

Response:

Because of snow cover at the date of application, it is impossible to mark the road. The road route will be marked before construction begins and the Division will be notified so it can perform the onsite review.

**(f) CLASS III ROADS SHALL NOT BE LOCATED IN WET, STEEP, OR UNSTABLE AREAS WHERE COMPLETE RESTORATION UNDER UMC 817.176 CANNOT BE ACCOMPLISHED.

What place is it?

Response:

The road location is in stable areas; no wet areas are known to exist.

**(g) A CLASS III ROAD MAY BE CONSTRUCTED IN THE SAME ALIGNMENT AS A CLASS I OR CLASS II ROAD THAT IS TO BE CONSTRUCTED ON THE SAME LOCATION AT A LATER DATE. THIS MAY BE PERMITTED IF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE LOCATION OF THE CLASS I OR CLASS II ROAD ARE MET, AND THE CONSTRUCTION BEGINS WITHIN 6 MONTHS FROM THE TIME THE CLASS III ROAD IS CONSTRUCTED.

Response:

Not applicable.

**UMC 817.172 ROADS: CLASS III: DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

**FIELD DESIGN METHODS SHALL BE UTILIZED FOR CLASS III ROADS.

**(a) VERTICAL ALIGNMENT. EXCEPT WHERE LESSER GRADES ARE NECESSARY TO CONTROL ON-SITE SPECIFIC CONDITIONS, MAXIMUM ROAD GRADES SHALL BE AS FOLLOWS:

**(i) THE OVERALL GRADE SHALL NOT EXCEED 1v:10h (10 PERCENT).

**(ii) THE PITCH GRADE SHALL NOT EXCEED 1v:5h (20 PERCENT).

**(iii) THERE SHALL NOT BE MORE THAN 1,000 CONSECUTIVE FEET OF MAXIMUM PITCH GRADE.

Response:

1. The road to Hole 86-18-1 has an overall grade of 6.8%.

2. The road to Hole 86-18-2 has an overall grade of 10.7% with 1260 feet of 12.5%. A lesser overall grade could be achieved to this hole but approximately 300 feet of additional road would have to be constructed through heavy fir trees. The loss of additional trees is not justified.

3. The road to Hole 86-18-3 has an overall grade of 6.4%.

**(b) HORIZONTAL ALIGNMENT. CLASS III ROADS MAY MEANDER SO AS TO AVOID LARGE GROWTHS OF VEGETATION AND OTHER NATURAL OBSTRUCTIONS.

Response:

The roads will be meandered where practical to avoid large vegetation such as, trees and large brush.

**(c) ROAD CUTS. SIDECAST CONSTRUCTION MAY BE USED.

**(d) ROAD EMBANKMENTS. COMPACTION ON EMBANKMENTS SHALL BE REQUIRED ONLY TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY TO CONTROL EROSION AND MAINTAIN THE ROAD.

Response:

Road construction will be by the sidecast method. Compaction will be accomplished with a dozer tractor as the material is sidecast. Exhibit B shows a typical cross-section of the road.

**(e) TOPSOIL REMOVAL. TOPSOIL SHALL BE REMOVED AND STOCKPILED ONLY WHERE EXCAVATION WOULD REQUIRE REPLACEMENT OF MATERIAL AND REDISTRIBUTION OF TOPSOIL FOR PROPER REVEGETATION.

Response:

Topsoil will be removed during the sidecast construction. Upon reclaiming the road, the topsoil will be retrieved with a backhoe and spread on the reclaimed area for revegetation.

where will topsoil go?

**UMC 817.173 ROADS: CLASS III: DRAINAGE

**(a) GENERAL.

**(1) CLASS III ROAD DRAINAGE SHALL CONSIST OF TEMPORARY CULVERTS IN FLOWING STREAMS, WET AREAS, AND IN EPHEMERAL CHANNELS AS NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE FACILITY DURING ITS LIFE AND TO MINIMIZE DISTURBANCE OF THE HYDROLOGIC BALANCE.

Response:

Two culverts as shown on Maps 3 and 4 will be installed in ephemeral channels to protect the road and minimize disturbance to the hydrologic balance.

**(2) SEDIMENT CONTROL SHALL COMPLY WITH UMC 817.42 AND 817.45.

**(b) CULVERTS AND BRIDGES. TEMPORARY CULVERTS SHALL BE INSTALLED FOR ALL FLOWING DRAINAGES AND STREAM CROSSINGS. TEMPORARY CULVERTS AND BRIDGES SHALL BE SIZED TO SAFELY PASS THE 1-YEAR, 6-HOUR PRECIPITATION EVENT.

Response:

Road construction will be conducted minimizing disturbance to the prevailing hydrologic balance. Methods will be implemented as necessary, including but not limited to the following:

1. Disturbing the least amount of area possible.

2. Using silt fence and straw bales to control sediment loss.

3. Reclaiming and revegetating disturbed areas as soon as possible after exploration activities.

4. Using water bars, ditches and/or culverts to control overland flow.

Culverts will be sized to pass a 1-year, 6-hour precipitation event.

**(c) NATURAL DRAINAGES. NATURAL CHANNEL DRAINAGEWAYS SHALL NOT BE ALTERED OR RELOCATED FOR THE PURPOSES OF CLASS III ROAD CONSTRUCTION.

**(d) STREAM CROSSINGS. TEMPORARY DRAINAGE STRUCTURES ARE REQUIRED FOR CROSSING PERMANENT STREAMS. DRAINAGE STRUCTURES SHALL NOT AFFECT THE NORMAL FLOW OR GRADIENT OF THE STREAM, ADVERSELY AFFECT FISH MIGRATION AND AQUATIC HABITAT OR RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES.

Response:

Natural channels will not be altered or relocated. No streams exist in the path of the roads.

**UMC 817.174 ROADS: CLASS III: SURFACING

**(a) CLASS III ROAD SURFACES SHALL BE ADEQUATE FOR THE USE OF THE ROAD.

**(b) ACID- OR TOXIC-FORMING SUBSTANCES SHALL NOT BE USED IN ROAD SURFACING.

**(c) VEGETATION SHALL NOT BE CLEARED FOR MORE THAN THE WIDTH NECESSARY TO SERVE TRAFFIC NEEDS AND FOR UTILITIES.

Response:

The road surfaces will be dirt; no additional surfacing will be used since the roads will be temporary. Vegetation removal will be limited to the smallest area necessary for road construction and traffic needs.

**UMC 817.175 ROADS: CLASS III: MAINTENANCE

**(a) CLASS III ROAD MAINTENANCE SHALL BE SUFFICIENT TO ENSURE MINIMIZATION OF EROSION FOR THE LIFE OF THE ROAD.

**(b) CLASS III ROADS SHALL NOT BE USED IF CLIMATIC CONDITIONS ARE SUCH THAT USAGE MAY CAUSE DEGRADATION OF WATER QUALITY.

Response:

Road maintenance will be sufficient to minimize erosion. Road usage will be limited to conditions where no significant environmental damage will be caused.

**UMC 817.176 ROADS: CLASS III: RESTORATION

**IMMEDIATELY AFTER A CLASS III ROAD IS NO LONGER NEEDED FOR OPERATIONS, RECLAMATION, OR MONITORING-

**(a) THE ROAD SHALL BE CLOSED TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC;

**(b) THE NATURAL DRAINAGE PATTERNS SHALL BE RESTORED;

**(c) ALL BRIDGES AND CULVERTS SHALL BE REMOVED;

**(d) ROADBEDS SHALL BE RIPPED, PLOWED, AND SCARIFIED;

**(e) FILL SLOPES SHALL BE ROUNDED OR REDUCED AND SHAPED TO CONFORM THE SITE TO ADJACENT TERRAIN AND MEET NATURAL-DRAINAGE RESTORATION STANDARDS;

**(f) CUT SLOPES SHALL BE RESHAPED TO BLEND WITH THE NATURAL CONTOUR;

**(g) CROSS DRAINS, DIKES, AND WATER BARS SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED TO CONTROL EROSION; AND

Response:

After exploration activities have been completed, the roads will be reclaimed as follows: Sidecast materials will be retrieved with a backhoe and replaced in the cut, as shown on Exhibit B. Natural channels will be restored and the disturbed area will be reshaped to as close to the natural configuration as possible and to blend in with the natural surroundings. The reclaimed surface will be left in a roughened condition and tree limbs, trunks and debris will be scattered on the area to help prevent erosion.

**(h) ROAD SURFACES FROM WHICH TOPSOIL HAS BEEN REMOVED SHALL BE COVERED WITH TOPSOIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH UMC 817.24(b), AND THE SURFACE SHALL BE REVEGETATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH UMC 817.111-817.116.

Response:

As discussed under UMC 817.172(e), topsoil will be removed during construction by the sidecast method. During reclamation, it will be retrieved with a backhoe and redistributed on the disturbed area in preparation for revegetation. Revegetation will be accomplished as discussed under UMC 815.15(f).

EXHIBIT A

PUBLIC NOTICE

Plateau Mining Company, P.O. Drawer PMC, Price, Utah 84501, has submitted an application for a permit to conduct coal exploration in Section 18, Township 15 South, Range 8 East, Salt Lake Base and Meridian. The application was submitted to the Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining on May 14, 1986, and can be reviewed at their office as shown below.

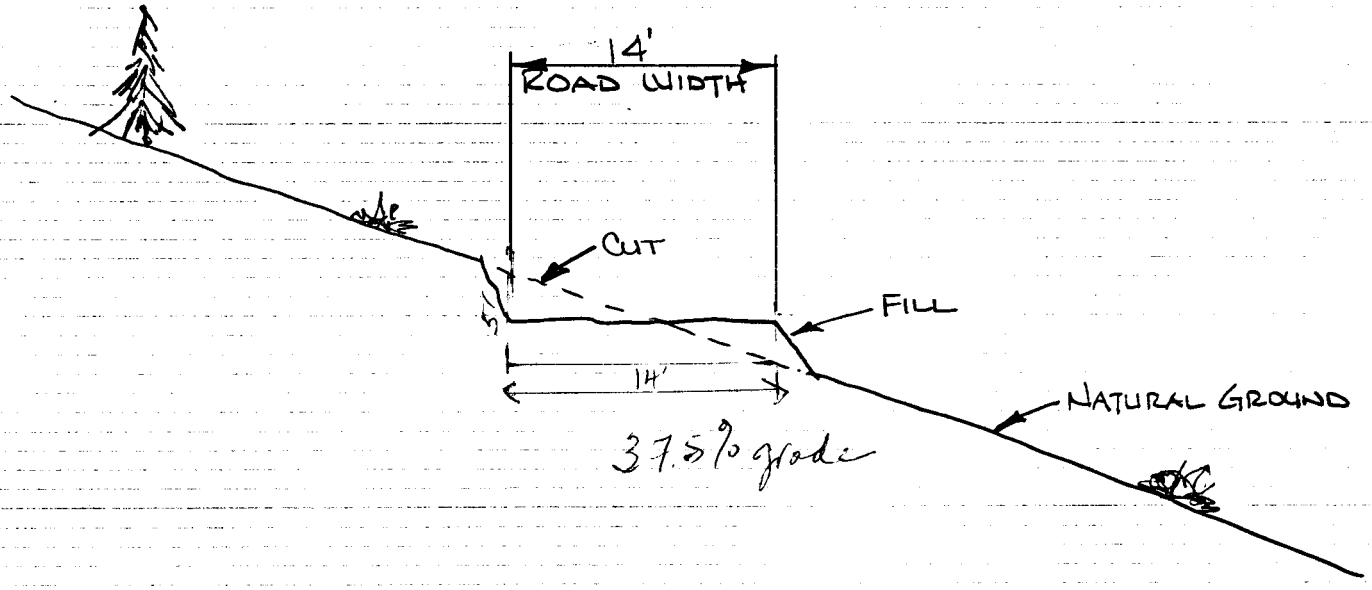
Written comments from the public will be received by the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining until 5:00 p.m. on June 13, 1986 at:

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

EXHIBIT B

TYPICAL ROAD SECTIONS

1" = 10'



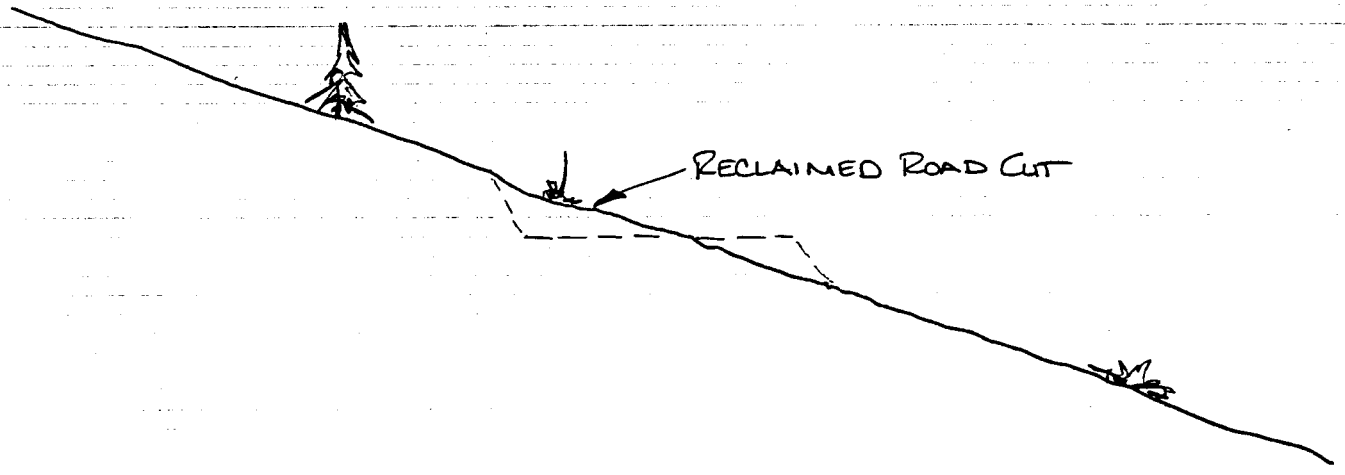
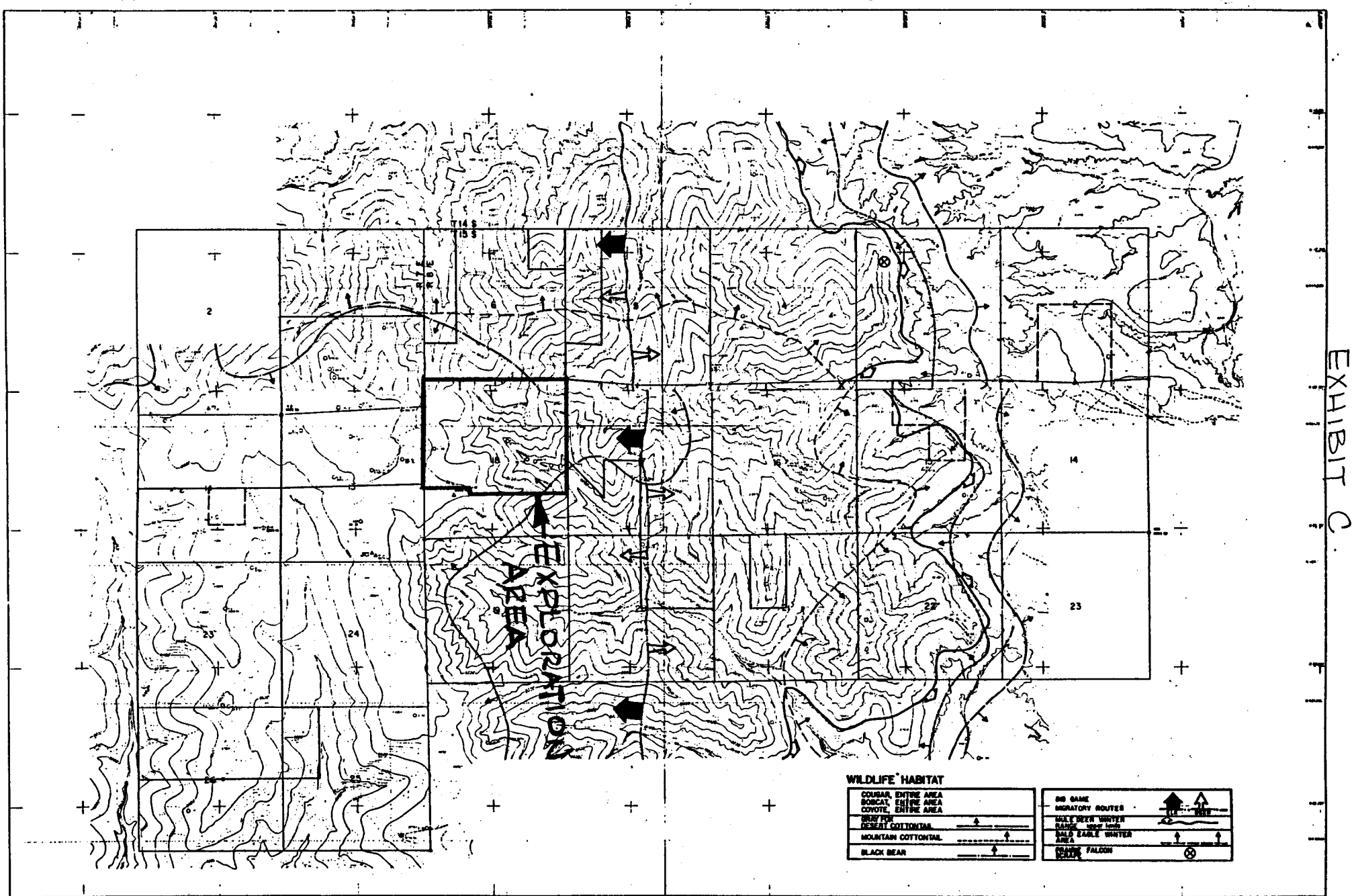


EXHIBIT C



NOT TO SCALE

TABLE 1

SEED MIX

SPECIES	SEEDING RATE IN PLS LBS/ACRE	
GRASSES		
Bluebunch Wheatgrass	2	125
Slender Wheatgrass	2	160
Kentucky Bluegrass	1	2150
Intermediate Wheatgrass	1	88
Timothy	1.5	1300
Orchardgrass	1.5	650
Meadow Foxtail Alopecurus?	1.5	
Manchar Smooth Brome	1.5	125
Chewings Red Fescue	1.5	≈ 500
FORBS		
Western Yarrow	1.5	2800
Utah Sweet Vetch	1.5	34
SHRUBS		
Mountain Snowberry	2	
Woods Rose	2	
TOTAL	20.5	

Seed mix based on research conducted at the U.S. Forest Service Research Station at Ephriam and Logan, Utah, for high mountain elevations.