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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

June 3, 1986

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

Dear Mr. Grimes:

RE: Vegetation Monitoring Data, Starpoint Mine, ACT/007/006,
Folder #13

This letter is to summarize and expand upon our telephone conversation of May 7, 1986 in which we discussed your proposals for changes in vegetation monitoring.

Proposed Changes:

1. The purpose of dividing plots into three segments was not "to increase sample size" as stated on page 13. The purpose was to determine if there are differences in revegetation success due to slope position. This is an important consideration considering the "end dump" soil placement technique that Plateau uses.

The Division does not think that the analysis presented on pages 13-14 is acceptable because it groups the upper, middle and lower slopes of all plots rather than making separate comparisons. Unless an analysis using existing data demonstrates that there are no differences among the individual treatments/locations, Plateau should continue the sampling program as designed. While it is regrettable that Getty's computer is no longer available to Plateau, there are many computers for hire and software that could perform the necessary analyses.

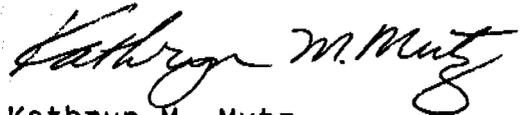
2. Since shrub transplant survival appears to have stabilized, Plateau may discontinue monitoring the Office Road Cut area as proposed.
3. Plateau may modify their coal refuse (A plot) sampling to every three years as requested. Limiting future sampling to years 5 and 10 would also be acceptable.

Mr. Ben Grimes
June 3, 1986
Page 2

General Comments:

1. There does not appear to be any reasonable correlation between cover and production and shrub density fluctuates drastically. I would like to discuss some of these numbers with you or Kent Crofts.
2. I would appreciate two additional copies of the report, one for DSM and one for our revegetation/biology file.

Sincerely,



Kathryn M. Mutz
Reclamation Biologist

cc: J. Whitehead
L. Kunzler
0531R-46