



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Manti-La Sal  
National Forest

Supervisor's Office  
599 West Price River Drive  
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Phone # (435) 637-2817  
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File Code: 2820-4

Date: May 24, 2000

Mary Ann Wright  
Utah Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210  
P.O. Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

*Incoming*  
*ACT/007/006*

RE: Sealing 2<sup>nd</sup> North Mains of Middle Seam, Star Point Mine

Dear Mary Ann:

We have been advised by the Bureau of Land Management, Price Field Office, on May 22, 2000, of a request by Plateau Mining Corporation to seal the 2<sup>nd</sup> North Mains of the Middle Seam and to leave two National Mine Service shuttle cars in the abandoned mine workings. Both of the cars contain fluid type batteries, hydraulic fluid, and gear oil. Plateau reports that the mine conditions are hazardous and it would not be safe to remove the cars from the seam.

We are extremely disappointed that Plateau did not have the foresight to remove the cars and fluids from this mine section when the other equipment that retained some economic value to the company was removed. The cars, when abandoned, are classified as solid waste and should have been salvaged or removed for proper disposal. Abandonment of equipment and used oils underground constitutes an unauthorized disposal; therefore Plateau is not in compliance with lease stipulations or the associated State and Federal laws.

We cannot consent to disposal of solid, toxic, and hazardous wastes, or used oils on National Forest System lands. However, since BLM confirmed that the cars and associated oils cannot be safely removed from the mine, we will not object to a BLM and/or UDOGM decision to approve the request. Plateau must either propose a method for encapsulating or rendering the materials in the mine harmless to the environment or submit a technical report by a qualified expert documenting that the materials would not pose a long-term threat to the environment. Additionally, Plateau must report the location and materials left in the mine and recognize in a written statement that they are aware that they may be held responsible for any environmental damage that results from leaving this equipment in the mine.

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DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS AND MINING



We hope that in the future, Plateau and other companies plan ahead and do not continue to allow equipment to sit in soon to be abandoned mine sections and create similar conditions.

Sincerely,



For

CROCKETT DUMAS

Acting Forest Supervisor

cc:

D-2/3

Sally Wisely, BLM Utah State Director

Dick Manus, BLM Price Field Office Manager

John Borla, Plateau Mining Corporation, Willow Creek Mine,  
847 NW Hwy 191, Helper, Utah 84526

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