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State of Utah
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DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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August 28, 2000

TO: Internal File

THRU: Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, Acting Associate Director of Mining *PL*
Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor *DH*
Susan White, Acting Permit Supervisor *SW*

FROM: Peter Hess, Reclamation Specialist III *SM for Peter*

RE: Anticipated Blast Design, Plateau Mining Corporation, Star Point Mine,
ACT/007/006

SUMMARY:

Plateau Mining Corporation is actively pursuing the reclamation of the Star Point Mine. During the reclamation process of the 1901 and 1902 clean coal stacking tubes at the site, the permittee discovered the need to use explosives to aid in the recovery of several reclaim feeders. The permittee has submitted an anticipated blast design prepared by a State of Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining certified surface blaster. Each blasting round will utilize less than five pounds of explosive.

The permittee's submittal is an anticipated blast design as addressed under R645-301-524.220 and is, therefore, not an amendment to the approved plan.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

OPERATION PLAN

USE OF EXPLOSIVES

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 817.61, 817.62, 817.64, 817.66, 817.67, 817.68; R645-301-524.

TECHNICAL MEMO

Analysis:

Volume III, Section 524 located on pages 500-13, 500-15, and 500-16 of the approved Star Point Mine mining and reclamation plan discusses methods which are to be utilized by the permittee to meet all applicable State and Federal laws and regulations in the use of explosives.

The following general requirements have been addressed:

- 1) The submitted blast design has been prepared by a State of Utah certified blaster, Mr. Cory McFarlane, certificate number 124. A copy of Mr. McFarlane's certificate has been included with the permittee's submittal.
- 2) The blasting will not be conducted within 1,000 feet of any building which is used as a dwelling, public building, school, church, or community or institutional building or within 500 feet of an active or abandoned underground mine.

The submitted blast design contains a sketch of the drill pattern to be used, a delay period (instantaneous as noted on the design), and a description of the explosives and length of incombustible stemming to be used. One 8-ounce stick of dynamite will be used per three foot hole, with 2.25 feet of clay stemming. Each round will incorporate 6 holes (or three pounds per round).

There is no need for a pre-blasting survey, as there are no structures within 1,000 feet of the blast site which are not owned by the permittee. The amount of explosives being utilized is under the five pound limit.

There are no residents within ½ mile of the proposed blasting area. As a Carbon County road runs adjacent to the blasting site, the permittee will inform the County Road Department's Superintendent, Mr. Ray Hansen, of the planned blasting activities prior to their initiation. The permittee plans to conduct the blasting activities during the week of September 4, 2000, during daylight hours.

With the close proximity of the Carbon county road, access control will be provided as indicated in Mr. Pappas' August 28, 2000 letter as well as mandated by the approved MRP, page 500-15, Sections 524.520 and 524.530 through 524.532. Livestock entry as well as unauthorized entry from the public will be prevented through posted blasting signs and other types of warning devices. The certified blaster will verify that safety concerns are adequately addressed prior to initiation of the shot.

Due to the minimal amount of explosives being used per round, there should not be any adverse effects. Air blast and ground vibration will be nonexistent, due to the nature of the

material being broken (concrete foundation on top of the soil horizon), and the amount of explosives being used. Adverse effects are also addressed within the currently approved plan (page 500-15), Section 524.600. The permittee has committed to fully comply with all State and Federal laws and regulations relative to the use of explosives.

The currently approved mining and reclamation plan also addresses the requirements relative to the maintenance of blasting records, (see 524.700 through 524.760, page 500-16).

Findings:

The anticipated blast design, as submitted in Mr. Johnny Pappas' letter from the permittee, dated August 28, 2000, in conjunction with the currently approved blasting plan in the Star Point Mine mining and reclamation plan adequately addresses all State and Federal laws and regulations relative to the use of explosives. The anticipated design should adequately perform the necessary breakage of the concrete foundations in the reclamation process of the reclaim feeders at the 1901 and 1902 clean coal stacking tubes.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The permittee should be given approval to proceed with the anticipated blasting plan as submitted in order to recover the reclaim feeders at the clean coal stacking tubes.