



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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December 21, 2000

To: **Internal File**

Thru: Daron R. Haddock, Permit Supervisor *NRZ*

From: Paul B. Baker, Reclamation Biologist *PBB*
Wayne H. Western, Reclamation Engineer *WHW*
Dave W. Darby, Reclamation Hydrologist *DWD*

Re: Technical Field Visit to the Mudwater Canyon Fan Portals, Plateau Mining Corporation, Star Point Mine, C/007/006

Other Attendees: Jeff DeFreest, U.S. Forest Service
Johnny Pappas, Chuck Burggraf, and others with Plateau Mining Corp.

Date & Time: November 27, 2000, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the visit was to view reclamation work that had occurred since our last visit on November 1, 2000.

OBSERVATIONS:

Demolition of the fan and associated buildings was complete, and the area where these structures once stood has been regraded (Figure 1). We felt the grading blends fairly well with the area uphill (Figure 2).

There is an old portal that Plateau backfilled ~~it~~ to make the area safer (Figure 3). They are not responsible for this area under Title V of SMCRA.

Through most of the regraded area, the channel is not very steep, but it drops off rather suddenly (Figures 4 and 5). According to Mr. Burggraf, this transition area is at a location where bedrock is near the surface. The channel was not designed, but there is a lot of rock that was put in the steep part. We asked the operator to place additional rock at the transition area between the steep and not-so-steep areas.

We expressed some concern about the break in the slope from the disturbed to the undisturbed areas (Figure 6). Although the operator plans to reduce this as much as possible, it will not be possible to completely eliminate it. There is a potential for some erosion in this area, but because we expect rapid vegetation establishment, the erosion should not be excessive.

The operator intends to proceed toward the west with backfilling and grading operations. As soon as possible, the operator will plant seedlings in the areas that have been graded. These areas will then be seeded and mulched. The operator is hoping this can be finished by December 1, 2000.

RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSIONS:

The operator needs to place rock at the top of the reclaimed channel in an effort to prevent a nickpoint where erosion can begin. Also, the break in slope between the disturbed and undisturbed areas needs to be reduced as much as possible.

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Attachment: (FV_112700A)

cc: Johnny Pappas, Plateau Mining
Chuck Burggraf, Plateau Mining
Jeff Defreest, USFS

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PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 1. General area of the fan portal.



Figure 2. Area uphill from fan portal.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 3. Backfilled abandoned portal (upper right).



Figure 4. Area just above the steep slope going down to the undisturbed channel.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 5. Steep slope going down to the undisturbed channel.



Figure 6. Break in the slope between the disturbed and undisturbed areas.