



**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 *DRH*

From: Paul B. Baker, Reclamation Biologist *PBB*  
 Wayne H. Western, Reclamation Engineer *WHW*  
 Bill Malencik, Inspector

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

**Other Attendees:** Johnny Pappas, Vicky Miller, Chuck Burggraf, and others from Plateau Mining Corp.

**Date & Time:** December 5, 2000, 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM

**PURPOSE:**

To witness the final closure of the last of the portals at the Mudwater Canyon fan portal site.

**OBSERVATIONS:**

During the previous field visit on November 27, 2000, Division staff had made a few suggestions about the channel and the berm along the edge of the disturbed area. The operator made the changes to the channel by putting more rock in the transition area just before it makes a steep drop. The channel was also better defined than it had previously been. (See Figures 1 and 2.)

Although the berm was essentially eliminated, there is still a fairly sharp break at the edge of the pad. Because of the limited amount of space available and also because of the small equipment that had to be used, it was not possible to take out this break (see Figure 3).

The portal was mostly closed when we got there with just enough room to crawl out. The operator used some mine equipment to backfill from the inside as much as possible. The workers placed several large rocks in the gap above the fill.

Above the portal brow, the operator had put in two horizontal aspen logs that were held in place by two log posts (Figure 4). Above this "fence," the operator stacked fill with the idea that it would come down and cover the portal when the fence was gone; however, much of the fill was frozen so it did not come down on its own. We used picks and shovels to pull it down by hand after which Mr. Pappas broadcast seeded, we planted about 40 seedlings, and we applied straw mulch. The final configuration is shown in Figures 5 and 6.

After we completed the reclamation work, we walked down the canyon about three miles to waiting vehicles. The walk was not hard, but it took us about one hour and fifteen minutes to cover about three miles. From where we met the vehicles, it was about a one hour drive back to the mine, much of it over what could be very slick roads if they were wet.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSIONS:**

The site should be inspected at least once a year for the next few years for any signs of piping into this or any of the other portals. The chances for revegetation success are high, and, between revegetation, roughening, and the mulch, there should not be too much offsite sedimentation. There are two rows of straw bales for sediment control in the channel.

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Attachment: (FV\_120500A)  
cc: Johnny Pappas, Plateau Mining  
Vicky Miller, Plateau Mining  
Chuck Burggraf, Plateau Mining  
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**PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Figure 1.** Steep portion of the channel with straw bales at the bottom.



**Figure 2.** Upper portion of the channel with straw bales.

PHOTOGRAPHS



**Figure 3.** Break in the slope from the disturbed area to the undisturbed area.



**Figure 4.** "Fence" above the portal brow.

**PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Figure 5.** Final configuration of the portal area.



**Figure 6.** Final configuration of the fan portal area. Just to the left of center is a backfilled abandoned portal.

**PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Figure 7.** Final configuration of the portals to the west of the fan portal.

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