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

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

Kathleen Clarke
Executive Director

Lowell P. Braxton
Division Director

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210

PO Box 145801

Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

801-538-5340

801-359-3940 (Fax)

801-538-7223 (TDD)

October 23, 2000

Johnny Pappas, Sr. Environmental Engineer
Plateau Mining Corporation
847 Northwest Highway 191
Helper, Utah 84526

Re: Conditional Approval of Raptor Monitoring, Plateau Mining Corporation, Star Point Mine, [REDACTED]-00B-1, Ou [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Pappas:

The above-referenced amendment is conditionally approved upon receipt of seven clean copies. Once we receive these copies, we will send an stamped approved copy to you for incorporation into your Mining and Reclamation Plan. A copy of our technical analysis is enclosed for your information.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Joe Helfrich at (801) 538-5290, or me at (801) 538 5258.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan M. White".

Susan M. White
Permit Supervisor

jch/sm

cc: Price Field Office

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State of Utah



Utah Oil Gas and Mining

Coal Regulatory Program

Star Point Mine
Raptor Monitoring
ACT/007/006-AM00B-1
Technical Analysis
October 19, 2000

INTRODUCTION

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A response to the Division's findings dated June 5, 2000 to discontinue raptor monitoring at the Star Point Mine was received August 18, 2000. The information contained in the response is adequate to make a finding that discontinuance of raptor monitoring meets the requirements of the regulations. The amendment summarizes the raptor survey data for the period of mining activity at the Star Point mine and provides requested changes to the current operation and reclamation plan. The proposed change may be approved.

INTRODUCTION

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

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Regulatory Reference: Pub. L 95-87 Sections 507(b), 508(a), and 516(b); 30 CFR Sec. 783., et. al.

FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.21; R645-301-322.

Analysis:

The current Technical Analysis for this section reflects the current permit and is shown below.

Raptor inventories have been conducted yearly in the permit area from 1981 to 1997 in conjunction with DWR and USFWS. It is likely that two endangered species of birds, the bald eagle and the peregrine falcon are present within the permit area. The bald eagle as a winter visitor and the peregrine falcon has been observed in 1996 and 1997 adjacent to the permit area. The continued monitoring of these birds should document any impacts. Table 322.200f, Raptor Nest Sites Activity, reports the results of the raptor monitoring for the permit area from 1982 to 1997. A total of 44 nests have been observed in the 15 years of monitoring and 23 young in the nests have been observed during this time.

This section of the permit has been updated to summarize the raptor monitoring program. A discussion and conclusion have been provided that describe this segment of the monitoring program. The letter from the DWR which gives their authorization to discontinue the Raptor Surveys has been referenced in this discussion as support for ending this portion of the monitoring program. The current status of the mine is permanent cessation (as of 6/5/00). PMC has committed to continue site specific monitoring during demolition and reclamation activities.

The peregrine falcon is no longer on the endangered species list. The bald eagle has been down listed to threatened. The most current listing information can be found at <http://endangered.fws.gov/wildlife.html>. The current proposal has been updated to reflect the current status of the bald eagle and peregrine falcon.

Findings:

Information provided in the proposed amendment is adequate to remove the raptor monitoring requirements.

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