



State of Utah
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DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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April 27, 2001

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

Re: Silo Demolition, Plateau Mining Corporation, Star Point Mine, [REDACTED] M01B,
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Pappas:

The above-referenced amendment has been reviewed. There are deficiencies that must be adequately addressed prior to approval. A copy of our Technical Analysis is enclosed for your information. In order for us to continue to process your application, please respond to these deficiencies by June 15, 2001.

If you have any questions, please call me at (801) 538-5325 or Susan White at (801) 538-5258.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daron R. Haddock".

Daron R. Haddock
Permit Supervisor

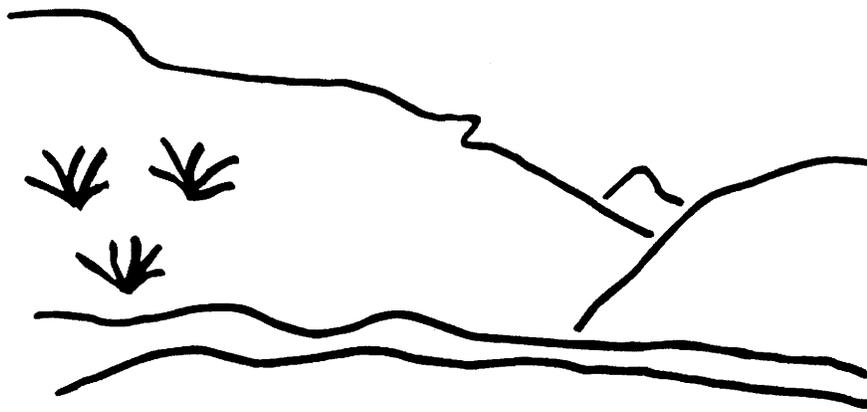
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Enclosure:

cc: Price Field Office

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State of Utah



Utah Oil Gas and Mining

Coal Regulatory Program

Star Point Mine
Silo Demolition
C/007/006-AM01B
Technical Analysis
April 25, 2001

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INTRODUCTION

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

INTRODUCTION

On March 5, 2001, the Division received an amendment to expand the disturbed area by approximately 1 acre at the Starpoint Mine. The permittee requested the expansion in order to dig a trench for disposal of concrete rubble from the silo demolition. The Division reviewed the amendment and several deficiencies that must be addressed prior to approval.

SUMMARY OF OUTSTANDING DEFICIENCIES

SUMMARY OF OUTSTANDING DEFICIENCIES

The Technical Analysis regarding the proposed permit changes is not complete at this time, pending submittal of additional information by the permittee and further review by the Division, to address outstanding deficiencies in the proposal. A summary of those outstanding deficiencies is provided below. Additional comments, concerns and deficiencies may also be found within the analysis and findings made in this Draft Technical Analysis which have not been presented in this summary. Upon finalization of this review, any outstanding deficiencies will be evaluated for compliance with the regulatory requirements. Such deficiencies may be conditioned to the requirements of the permit issued by the Division, result in denial of the proposed permit changes, or may result in other executive or enforcement action as deemed necessary by the Division at that time to achieve compliance with the Utah Coal Regulatory Program.

Accordingly, the permittee must address those deficiencies as found within this Draft Technical Analysis and provide the following, prior to approval, in accordance with the requirements of:

Regulations

- R645-301-114**, The applicant needs to show it has right of entry for the area proposed to be disturbed..... 5
- R645-301-230**, The applicant needs to say how much soil will be salvaged and how it will be stored..... 10
- R645-301-240**, The current mining and reclamation plan contains a commitment to investigate various methods of reclaiming soils derived from Mancos Shale parent material. Assuming this has happened, the applicant need to incorporate results of this testing in the mining and reclamation plan..... 15
- R645-301-353**, the seed mixture, rates and timing must be changed to encourage vegetative cover that is comprised of species native to the area, have the same season characteristics of growth and be capable of plant succession. 18
- R645-301-358**, a commitment must be made to survey the silo prior to demolition for animal species of concern. 10

GENERAL CONTENTS

RIGHT OF ENTRY

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 778.15; R645-301-114

Analysis:

According to the cover letter received with the application, the applicant has applied for a right of way from the Bureau of Land Management but has not yet received it. When the applicant originally applied for a right of way in 1984, the area proposed to be added to the disturbed area was included, so this area was also included when the Bureau of Land Management did its environmental assessment. However, the applicant later decided to exclude the area from the right of way, so although the environmental assessment is completed, the applicant does not have right of entry.

Findings:

Information in the proposal is not adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations. Prior to final approval, the applicant must supply the following information in accordance with:

R645-301-114, The applicant needs to show it has right of entry for the area proposed to be disturbed

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

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

SOILS RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 783.21; 30 CFR 817.22; 30 CFR 817.200(c); 30 CFR 823; R645-301-220;
R645-301-411.

Analysis:

According to Plate 222.100d and Exhibit 222.300a of the current mining and reclamation plan, soils in the area proposed to be disturbed are classified as being in the Badland-Rubbleland-Rock outcrop complex. Limited chemical analyses of some of the soils in the area are in Table 230.200f. The sampling sites nearest the silo demolition area are sites 1 and 2. The only analyses given in this table are pH, electrical conductivity (EC), nitrate, phosphorous, potassium, and carbonate. Section 234 thru 234.320 says the soils in this area do not possess generic soil horizons but are undifferentiated geologic materials.

The Division would normally require more analyses to determine whether the soil material is suitable and how much should be salvaged. In this case, however, the Division considers the information adequate. The area to be disturbed is not large, and the chemical analyses available indicate no problems with using this soil.

Findings:

Information in the proposal is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

OPERATION PLAN

OPERATION PLAN

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL PLAN

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 784.26, 817.95; R645-301-244.

Analysis:

The applicant has an Air Quality Approval Order for the Star Point Mine, but it does not specifically address the proposed demolition of the silo. According to verbal information from a representative of the Division of Air Quality, no specific approval is required. The applicant needs to minimize fugitive dust by wetting the area if it is dry and should also check to see if there is any asbestos in the silo. As part of demolition associated with reclamation, the applicant has apparently done an asbestos survey at the silo with negative results, and these results should be available to an inspector.

Findings:

Information in the application is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

FISH AND WILDLIFE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.21, 817.97; R645-301-322, -301-333, -301-342, -301-358.

Analysis:

The unit train loadout silo has been idled and the conveyor removed for over a years. There is some chance that a species of concern (i.e. raptors or bats) have moved into the silo during this time. The permittee must commit to having a qualified person look in and around the silo prior to demolition. A plan will be developed if any species of concern are found.

Findings:

Information provided in the amendment is not considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section. Prior to approval, the permittee must provide the following in accordance with:

OPERATION PLAN

SPOIL AND WASTE MATERIALS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 701.5, 784.19, 784.25, 817.71, 817.72, 817.73, 817.74, 817.81, 817.83, 817.84, 817.87, 817.89; R645-100-200, -301-210, -301-211, -301-212, -301-412, -301-512, -301-513, -301-514, -301-521, -301-526, -301-528, -301-535, -301-536, -301-542, -301-553, -301-745, -301-746, -301-747.

Analysis:

Disposal of noncoal waste

Concrete debris has been considered by the Division to be inert material that can be used as backfill and not noncoal waste. The Division usually does not require concrete debris to be placed in noncoal waste disposal area because the material is (1) not flammable, (2) non-acid and non-toxic forming and (3) does not product leachate. Therefore, the Division does not consider the silo trench to be a noncoal waste site.

Findings:

The requirements of this section of the regulations are considered adequate in regard to the proposed permit change for the addition of the disturbed area needed for the silo demolition.

USE OF EXPLOSIVES

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

Analysis:

General

The addition to the disturbed area does not involve explosives. However, the Division must approve the blasting plan prior to the silo demolition.

Findings:

The requirements of this section of the regulations are considered adequate in regard to the proposed permit change for the addition of the disturbed area needed for the silo demolition.

RECLAMATION PLAN

TOPSOIL AND SUBSOIL

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 817.22; R645-301-240.

Analysis:

The reclamation plan for soils is in Section 240 of the current mining and reclamation plan, and the applicant has not proposed to change this section of the plan. According to the plan, spoil will be ripped or gouged before topsoil is replaced. Next, two tons per acre of alfalfa hay, straw, or other suitable organic amendment will be mixed into the soil either by gouging or plowing along the contour. This will be followed by seeding and application of straw mulch. The mulch will be held in place either by crimping it with trackhoe teeth or by spraying it with tackifier.

The applicant intends to apply fertilizer at the rate of 40 pounds per acre of nitrogen and 30 pounds per acre of phosphorous. This would be applied either before mixing the organic amendment into the soil or in conjunction with the seeding operation. The Division and several mine operators have found that fertilizer tends to increase the number of weeds on the reclaimed area and that it does not necessarily increase growth of desirable vegetation. The Division recommends the applicant not fertilize the area.

The applicant commits in the existing mining reclamation plan to investigate available methods of Mancos Shale soil enhancement prior to commencement of final reclamation of areas with Mancos Shale parent material. The enhancement measures may include the application of pH-lowering substances, such as gypsum, acidic coal waste, imported soils, etc., or enhancement of the soil through mechanical means. The plan contains no further information indicating whether this has been done or what the results were if it was done. Assuming the applicant followed through with the commitment to try different soil enhancement measures, those that were successful should be incorporated into the mining and reclamation plan

Findings:

Information in the proposal is not adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations. Prior to final approval, the applicant must supply the following information in accordance with:

R645-301-240, The current mining and reclamation plan contains a commitment to investigate various methods of reclaiming soils derived from Mancos Shale parent material. Assuming this has happened, the applicant need to

RECLAMATION PLAN

Other treatment facilities

During reclamation the disturbed area will be regarded to contour, as shown in Figure 12, then roughened and reseeded.

Casing and sealing of wells

No wells exist in the disturbed area.

Findings:

The applicant has submitted sufficient information to address this section.

REVEGETATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 785.18, 817.111, 817.113, 817.114, 817.116; R645-301-244, -301-353, -301-354, -301-355, -301-356, -302-280, -302-281, -302-282, -302-283, -302-284.

Analysis:

General Requirements

Seed mixtures have been designed to correspond to the different plant communities found in the disturbed areas. If the areas are drill seeded, they will be seeded at a rate of one-half that given in the seed mixture tables. However, most areas will be broadcast seeded to maintain the surface roughness. Five seed mixtures (Tables 341.220a through 341.220i) will be used for final reclamation seeding. These are:

<u>Name of Mixture</u>	<u>Table No.</u>	<u>Areas of Use</u>
Forest Service Areas	341.220g and h 341.220i and j	Gentry Mtn Shaft Mudwater Canyon Breakout Corner Canyon Fan
Unit Train Loadout	341.220a and b	Unit train loadout area (saltbush type)
Mountain Grassland	341.220c and f	Star Point No. 1 Mine Area, Lion Deck Portal Area
Sagebrush Area	341.220c and d	Refuse Pile, Topsoil Stockpile, Lower Office, Wash Plant, Conveyor, Lion Deck Portal Access Road

RECLAMATION PLAN

Findings:

The amendment meets the minimum regulatory requirements of this section.

BONDING AND INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 800; R645-301-800, et seq.

Analysis:

Determination of bond amount

The demolition cost for the silo has already been included in the bond. The current estimate for the silo's demolition is \$340,238. The demolition cost includes conservative estimates for on site disposal of concrete debris.

Findings:

The requirements of this section of the regulations are considered adequate in regard to the proposed permit change for the addition of the disturbed area needed for the silo demolition.