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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)

August 7, 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, C [REDACTED] AM01B-1,
[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 September 28, 2001.

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

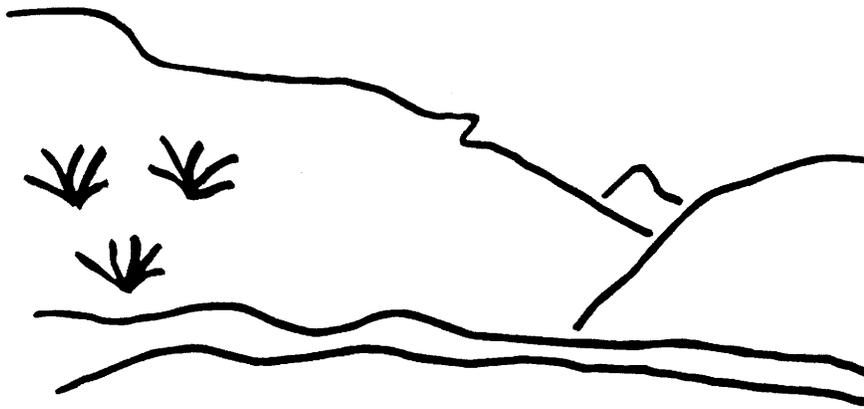
Sincerely,

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

Daron R. Haddock
Permit Supervisor

sd
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-1
Technical Analysis
July 30, 2001

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	1
SUMMARY OF OUTSTANDING DEFICIENCIES	3
GENERAL CONTENTS.....	5
RIGHT OF ENTRY	5
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION	7
SOILS RESOURCE INFORMATION.....	7
OPERATION PLAN	9
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL PLAN.....	9
FISH AND WILDLIFE INFORMATION	9
TOPSOIL AND SUBSOIL.....	10
Removal and Storage	10
SPOIL AND WASTE MATERIALS	10
Disposal of noncoal waste	10
USE OF EXPLOSIVES	11
MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF MINING OPERATIONS.....	11
Mining facilities maps.....	11
RECLAMATION PLAN	13
TOPSOIL AND SUBSOIL.....	13
HYDROLOGIC INFORMATION	13
General.....	13
Surface-water monitoring	13
Water quality standards and effluent limitations	14
Diversions	14
Siltation structures	14
Other treatment facilities.....	14
Casing and sealing of wells.....	14
REVEGETATION	14
General Requirements.....	14
MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF RECLAMATION OPERATIONS	15
Bonded area map.....	16
Final surface configuration maps.....	16
BONDING AND INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS.....	16
Determination of bond amount	16

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

INTRODUCTION

On March 5, 2001, the Division received an amendment to expand the disturbed area by approximately one acre at the Star Point Mine. The operator requested the expansion in order to dig a trench for disposal of concrete rubble from the silo demolition. Several deficiencies were noted in the amendment. The Division received a revised amendment on June 11, 2001. Deficiencies noted are a blasting plan and a BLM right-of-way in this Technical Analysis.

Page 2
C/007/006-AM01B-1
July 30, 2001

INTRODUCTION

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
- R645-301-524**, The Permittee must provide the Division a blasting plan that shows that all of the relevant requirements of R645-301-524 have been met. 11

Page 4
C/007/006-AM01B-1
July 30, 2001

SUMMARY OF OUTSTANDING DEFICIENCIES

GENERAL CONTENTS

GENERAL CONTENTS

RIGHT OF ENTRY

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

Analysis:

According to the cover letter received with the original application, the applicant has applied for a right of way from the BLM but has not yet received it. When the applicant first 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 BLM 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.

In the cover letter with the June 11, 2001, submittal; the applicant requested that the amendment be approved with a condition precluding entry until authorized by the BLM. This will allow the applicant to begin working on demolition within the current disturbed area.

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.

Page 6
C/007/006-AM01B-1
July 30, 2001

GENERAL CONTENTS

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.

Page 8
C/007/006-AM01B-1
July 30, 2001

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

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 year. There is some chance that a species of concern (i.e. raptors or bats) have moved into the silo during this time. The permit commits to conducting site specific monitoring during demolition and reclamation activities. A plan will be developed if any species of concern are found.

Findings:

Information provided in the amendment meets the minimum regulatory requirements of the fish and wildlife information for the operation plan.

TOPSOIL AND SUBSOIL

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 817.22; R645-301-230.

Analysis:

Removal and Storage

Based on the information in the plan, there is no clear boundary between horizons for the soils in the area, but there is a sharp decline in potassium content between the top twelve inches and the layer between twelve and eighteen inches. Based on this and also on verbal information from the applicant that it would probably be easier to salvage twelve inches of soil than six, the applicant has committed to salvage the upper twelve inches of soil. The soil will be stockpiled and protected with straw bales, silt fencing, earthen material, or a combination of the three. The stockpile will also be signed. These commitments meet regulatory requirements.

Findings:

Information provided in the proposal is adequate to meet the soils operation plan portion of the regulations.

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.

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.

Analysis:

The amendment did not include a detailed blasting plan. Without the blasting plan the Division is unable to determine if the requirements of R645-301-524 will be met. Therefore, the Division cannot approve the amendment until the blasting plan has been approved.

Findings:

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

R645-301-524, The Permittee must provide the Division a blasting plan that shows that all of the relevant requirements of R645-301-524 have been met.

MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF MINING OPERATIONS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.23; R645-301-512, -301-521, -301-542, -301-632, -301-731, -302-323.

Analysis:

Mining facilities maps

Map 542.200c, Reclamation Topography Sheet 3, shows the pre and post mining contours.

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.

Page 12
C/007/006-AM01B-1
July 30, 2001

OPERATION PLAN

RECLAMATION PLAN

RECLAMATION PLAN

TOPSOIL AND SUBSOIL

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

Analysis:

Stockpiled soils will be redistributed at an average thickness of twelve inches. According to the existing 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 commitment to fertilize the area has been removed.

Findings:

Information in the proposal is adequate to meet the soils reclamation requirements of the regulations.

HYDROLOGIC INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.14, 784.29, 817.41, 817.42, 817.43, 817.45, 817.49, 817.56, 817.57; R645-301-512, -301-513, -301-514, -301-515, -301-532, -301-533, -301-542, -301-723, -301-724, -301-725, -301-726, -301-728, -301-729, -301-731, -301-733, -301-742, -301-743, -301-750, -301-751, -301-760, -301-761.

Analysis:

General

Plateau Mining Corporation will amend BLM right-of-way U-52409 approximately 0.98 acres to allow demolition and burial of the loadout silo. No ground-water issues will be involved, only surface water and sediment controls will be required.

Surface-water monitoring

Addition of the surface area will not influence perennial or intermittent stream, springs or standing water bodies. No perennial or intermittent surface flow exists adjacent to the proposed ROW and disturbed area addition. The area receiving the demolished silo is currently an alternate sediment control area. Flows are expected only in the most intense rainstorms. No monitoring sites will be established below the disturbed area.

Water quality standards and effluent limitations

Silt fences will be used to contain disturbed area runoff until sufficient vegetation growth is established to control and contain erosion.

Diversions

No diversions are associated with the proposed change.

Siltation structures

Silt fences will be installed below the disturbed area to contain any sediment washing from the site.

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:

RECLAMATION PLAN

<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 Mountain 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

These areas are also shown on Maps 341.100g thru 341.100i.

Performance standards require the vegetative cover to be comprised of species native to the area, have the same seasonal characteristics of growth, and be capable of plant succession. No warm season species were observed in the silo disturbed area during a site visit on May 1, 2001 by Division Biologists. The seed application timing, seed mix species and rates are conducive to establishing a vegetative cover to meeting the performance standards. In addition to seeding, the operator will transplant serviceberry and black sagebrush to ensure a diverse community.

Findings:

Information provided in the amendment is considered adequate to meet the minimum revegetation requirements of this section.

**MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF RECLAMATION
OPERATIONS**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.23; R645-301-323, -301-512, -301-521, -301-542, -301-632, -301-731.

Analysis:

Bonded area map

The Division usually considers that the bonded area is equal to the disturbed area. The permittee does not have one map that shows the entire disturbed area map. They do show the disturbed areas on several maps. Map 321.100h, Disturbed Area Map Sheet 3, shows the proposed change to the disturbed area.

Final surface configuration maps

Map 542.200c, Reclamation Topography Sheet 3, shows the pre and post mining contours.

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.