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

OK

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April 11, 2002

TO: Internal File
THRU: Karl R. Houskeeper, Reclamation Specialist, Team Lead *KRH/ryan*
FROM: Susan M. White, Sr. Reclamation Specialist/Biology *SMW*
RE: Land Use Change, Plateau Mining Corporation, Star Point Mine, C/007/006-02C

SUMMARY:

Plateau Mining Corporation submitted an amendment application on March 5, 2002 requesting a change in the postmining land use. The land use change on a portion of the disturbed area is from grazing and wildlife to industrial. Two gas wells, Cyprus 10-526 and Utah 10-525, are proposed to occupy 12 acres. The current amendment fails to provide all information necessary to approve an alternative postmining land use.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

RECLAMATION PLAN

TOPSOIL AND SUBSOIL

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

Analysis:

A utility pipeline corridor (proposed for the postmining land use) will pass to the south side of the topsoil stockpile. The maps provided do not clearly show if the pipeline corridor will affect the topsoil stockpile. It is not clear if the topsoil stockpile will be used in site reclamation activities prior to the proposed alternative postmining land use being implemented. This must be clarified. A timeline showing drill pad and pipeline grading in conjunction with other reclamation activities may help clarify these issues.

TECHNICAL MEMO

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:

R645-301-121.200, Clarify whether the topsoil stockpile will be affected by oil and gas activities.

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

No revegetation plan was provided for the regraded out slopes of the drill pads. A stabilizing ground cover composed of sod-forming grasses is required to prevent erosion and invasion of cheatgrass and noxious weeds.

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:

R645-301-356.240, A plan to revegetate and seed the drill pad out slopes must be provided.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Prior to approval the above noted deficiencies must be provided.