



## United States Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING

Reclamation and Enforcement

P.O. Box 46667

Denver, Colorado 80201-6667

IN REPLY REFER TO:

UT-0018

November 18, 2003

Utah Division of Oil, Gas, & Mining  
Coal Regulatory Program  
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210  
P.O. Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

RE: Plateau Mining Corporation - "Star Point" Mine - Application for Phase I Bond Release

Dear Sir or Madam:

This in response to the Utah Division of Oil, Gas, & Mining's (UT-DOGM) November 13, 2003, request for a decision, under 30 CFR 947.30, whether the above subject permit revision constitutes a mining plan modification.

Mining plan approvals by the Secretary of the Interior are required under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, 30 U.S.C. 181, *et seq.* before coal mining can occur on Federal lands. This letter serves to document OSM's determination whether or not a mining plan approval from the Secretary is required for the above permitting action.

OSM's review of the Application for Phase I Bond Release, has determined that it requests Phase I bond release on approximately 95 acres, including the Corner Canyon and Mudwater Fan sites, where the disturbed lands have been backfilled and graded, drainage controls installed, and where reseeding requirements have been completed, at the Star Point mine, Utah State permit C/007/006.

Based on a review of the activities associated with the permit revision, OSM has determined that the proposal does not meet the requirements of 30 CFR 746.11(a) and 746.18(d). Therefore, the proposed permit revision does not constitute a mining plan action requiring Secretarial approval.

OSM's decision was based solely upon the Federal regulations under 30 CFR PART 746 and not the technical aspects of the revision application itself. Consequently, OSM's decision does not relieve UT-DOGM from coordinating the review and approval of the Application for a Phase I Bond release with other Federal agencies for compliance with other Federal regulations.

OSM also electronically transmitted the November 13, 2003 request to the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service for their review and comment.

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DIV. OF OIL, GAS &amp; MINING

In an electronic transmittal dated November 18, 2003, the U.S. Forest service stated that the Application for Phase I Bond Release was an administrative action and as such should not be classified as a Mine Plan Amendment. In addition, they have been in communication with UT-DOGM regarding reclamation of the facilities on National Forest System lands.

In an electronic transmittal dated November 17, 2003 the Bureau of Land Management stated that, in their opinion, the Application for a Phase I Bond Release, does not represent a change that would require a Mining Plan Modification.

Please notify the applicant of our decision on this matter.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter or approval, please contact Carl R. Johnston, Utah Federal Lands coordinator, at (303) 844-1400, extension 1500.

Sincerely,

  
Ranvir Singh  
Manager, Northwest Branch

cc: Denver Field Division