

June 4, 2003

TO: Internal File

FROM: Wayne Western

RE: Discontinue Subsidence Monitoring, Plateau Mining Company, Star Point Mine, C/007/006-AM03B

SUMMARY:

On April 23, 2003, the Division received amendment AM03B for the Star Point Mine. The amendment is a request for ceasing the subsidence-monitoring program. The reasons for ceasing the program are there has been no impact to surface or ground water and the area is stable. Therefore, additional subsidence monitoring is unnecessary.

TECHNICAL MEMO

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

OPERATION PLAN

SUBSIDENCE CONTROL PLAN

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 784.20, 817.121, 817.122; R645-301-521, -301-525, -301-724.

Analysis:

Subsidence Control Plan

The Division reviewed the Exhibit 728h, Appendix D, which shows the subsidence monitoring data from 1991 through 2002. The data shows no significant changes in elevation change that can be contributed to subsidence. There are some anomalies in the data that the Permittee explains by in house survey errors.

In 2002, the Permittee did find some subsidence cracks. The Division examined the cracks but could not determine when the cracks occurred. The Division usually assumes that 90% of all subsidence from longwall operations will occur with six months of mine. Based on the data in Appendix D the Division has no reason to make another conclusion.

On March 22, 2002, the Division approved an amendment to reduce water monitoring after the Division found water quality to be stable over time. The site appears to be stable and subsidence-monitoring requirements can be eliminated.

Findings:

The Permittee has met the minimum requirements of this section of the regulations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Division should approve amendment AM03B