

July 31, 2003

TO: Internal File

THRU: Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Wayne H. Western, Sr. Reclamation Specialist/Engineering

RE: Technical Field Visit To Corner Canyon and Mud Water Canyon to follow up on Backfilling and Grading and Vegetation Done in 2000, Plateau Mining Corporation, Star Point Mine, C/007/006

Other Attendees:

Johnny Pappas, Plateau Mining Corporation, visited Corner and Mud Water Canyon
Johnnie Green, Plateau Mining Corporation, visited Corner and Mud Water Canyon
Layne Jensen, Earth Fax Engineering, visited Corner and Mud Water Canyon
Justin Eatchel, DOGM, visited Corner and Mud Water Canyon
Wayne Western, DOGM, visited Corner and Mud Water Canyon

Date & Time:

Arrived on site at 9:15 AM, July 30, 2003
Visit to Corner Canyon at 10:15-11:00 AM (excludes hiking time)
Visit to Mud Water Canyon 2:00 to 3:00 PM (excludes hiking time)

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the field inspection was to inspect the reclamation work that was done at Corner and Mud Water Canyon in 2000.

TECHNICAL FIELD VISIT

OBSERVATIONS:

The purpose of the meeting was to inspect Corner Canyon and Mud Water Canyons.

The inspection team arrived at the turn out for the Corner Canyon trail at 9:30 AM. The temperature was in the upper 70's and the sky was partly cloudy. The hike involved a 1,100-foot descent over a ½ mile trail. The team arrived at 10:15 AM and departed at 11:00 AM.

The site contains three portal entrances. The portal entrance further down canyon involved the most disturbed area. The reclaimed site appeared to be stable because no major earth movement had occurred. In addition, there were no tension cracks or other signs of instability.

Last year at the two upper portal areas, the Division noticed that some settling had occurred along the boundary between the reclaimed and native slopes. The Division noticed that no additional settling had occurred.

Some non-native material remains on site, such as twine, plastic root containers, cable, and roof bolts. Johnny Pappas agreed to have a team come in with mules to remove all litter.

None of the seedlings planted in 2000 have survived. The grasses had been established at the site.

No major problems with erosion were noticed. The Division saw no major rills of other erosion features.

The team arrived at the trailhead to Mud Water Canyon at 1:00 PM and returned at 4:45 PM. The temperature was in the upper 80's and the sky was cloudy. The hike again involved a 1,100-foot descent over a ½ mile trail.

The Division inspected a pre-law portal that the Permittee had backfilled as part of a gratuitous reclamation project. Due to safety constraints, the Permittee was unable to completely backfill the portal. There was a 10-inch gap between the roof and the fill. The fill was approximately 20-feet thick. The backfill is stable and there is no evidence of anyone trying to enter the portal.

The SMCRA side of the site had been backfilled and graded and seeded in 2000. The surface at the site appeared stable; no signs of slumps or slide, or tension cracks. The soil had settled along the backfill and cut slope surface interface.

The site appears to have been over grazed. The Permittee is not sure what can be done to keep cattle off the site.

RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSIONS:

The Permittee needs to remove all non-native materials from the sites. The Permittee agreed to have a crew with mules go into the site to pack out all non-native materials.

The Permittee wants to submit Phase I bond release on the Star Point Mine site at the end October 2003. Phase I bond release will include Corner and Mud Water canyons.