



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
Reclamation and Enforcement
P.O. Box 46667
Denver, Colorado 80201-6667

Mark →
Coal

October 12, 2004

Lowell P. Braxton, Director
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
1594 West North Temple
Suite 1210, PO Box 145801
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5801

J. Young
C/007/006

RE: Phase I Bond Release, Star Point Mine, Permit No. C/007/006, Concurrence

Dear Mr. Braxton,

This letter acknowledges the Office of Surface Mining (OSM), Western Regional Coordinating Center (WRCC), Denver Field Division's (DFD) receipt and review of the above phase I Bond Release Proposed Decision document prepared by the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining (DOGM) dated August 9, 2004. DFD agrees with the findings and decision document and hereby provides OSM concurrence for the above bond release action in accordance with 30 CFR 740.15 (d) (3), and 30 CFR 944.30, Article IX, of the State-Federal Cooperative Agreement.

A thorough summary of the operational and reclamation history of the mine are accurately captured in the above DOGM Proposed Decision. Public and landowner notification of the bond release provided by the permittee (Plateau Mining Corporation), and the bond release inspection notifications provided by DOGM are also documented in the Proposed Decision, DOGM's inspection report for the bond release inspection, and related correspondence. Both OSM and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) were notified of the bond release inspection. BLM concurred with the proposed decision in a letter dated July 26, 2004.

DOGM's Proposed Decision documents the applicant's compliance with the Utah approved regulatory program. Bond release criteria found in the above regulatory provisions have been met or exceeded by the permittee. Backfilling and grading to achieve approximate original contour on this site was the subject of a special focus review conducted by OSM and DOGM in 1997. The reclamation plan was found deficient and the operator submitted a revision to the mine plan. The revised plan was

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approved by DOGM on May 27, 1998. OSM and DOGM did another review of this topic in 2001. The mine was found to be in compliance at that time.

This Phase I bond release applies to 95.3 acres of disturbance at the mine. A 60% release of the total bond amount of \$7,796,000 equals \$4,677,600. A reclamation bond of \$3,118,400 will remain for reclamation.

DOGM conducted the required bond release inspection on June 23, 2004. OSM and the BLM participated in the inspection. OSM has reviewed the resulting DMG inspection report, associated historical correspondence, and DOGM's proposed decision. OSM concurs with DOGM and the BLM on this release.

Thank you and your staff for coordinating this Federal lands bond release through the DFD. Please direct any questions concerning this action to Mitch Rollings at 303-844-1440 x1445.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James F. Fulton".

James. F. Fulton, Chief
Denver Field Division

Cc: Plateau Mining Corp.