

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF UTAH)

ss.

County of Carbon,)

I, Ken Larson, on oath, say that I am the Publisher of the Sun Advocate, a twice-weekly newspaper of general circulation, published at Price, State a true copy of which is hereto attached, was published in the full issue of such newspaper for 4 (Four) consecutive issues, and that the first publication was on the 15th day of January, 2004, and that the last publication of such notice was in the issue of such newspaper dated the 5th day of February, 2004.

Ken G. Larson

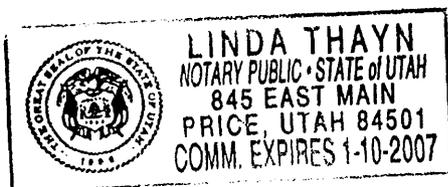
Ken G Larson - Publisher

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of February, 2004.

Linda Thayne

Notary Public My commission expires January 10, 2007 Residing at Price, Utah

Publication fee, \$ 599.04



PUBLIC NOTICE

**APPLICATION FOR PHASE I BOND RELEASE
STAR POINT MINE
PLATEAU MINING CORPORATION
PERMIT C/007/006, APPROVED 01/28/92**

Notice is hereby given that Plateau Mining Corporation, P.O. Box 30, 847 Northwest Highway 191, Helper, Utah 84526, a subsidiary of RAG American Coal Company, 999 Corporate Blvd., Linthicum Heights, MD 21090, has filed an application with the Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining pursuant to R645-301-880 for Phase I bond release to Permit C/007/006; This Phase I bond release applies to 95.3 acres, including the Corner Canyon and Mudwater Fan sizes, of disturbed lands where the backfilling and grading, installation of drainage controls, and reseeding requirements have been completed in accordance with approved mining and reclamation plan and pursuant to the Utah Coal Program Regulations.

In accordance with the provision of R645-301-880, of the State of Utah R645 Coal Mining Rules, notice is hereby given that Plateau Mining Corporation is applying for partial release of the performance bond posted for this property. The surety bond posted for the Star Point Mine is \$7,796,000.00. Plateau Mining Corporation is seeking release of 60% of the bond, or \$4,677,600.00.

The portion of the permit area that is affected is located in Carbon County, Utah as follows:

Township 15 South, Range 7 East, SLB&M

Section 12: Portion of the NE1/4W1/4

Township 15 South, Range 8 East, SLB&M

Section 8: Portion of the SW1/4NW1/4

Section 9: Portion of the SE1/4SE1/4; SW1/4SW1/4

Section 10: Portion of the S1/2 North of County Road 290

Section 15: Portion of the NE1/4NE1/4

Section 16: Portion of the N1/2, SE1/4

The permit area is shown on the Wattis U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute map.

The Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining will now evaluate the proposal to determine whether it meets all the criteria of the Permanent Program Performance Standards according to the requirements of the Utah Coal Mining Rules.

Written comments, objections and request for information conferences on this proposal may be addressed to:

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

Closing date for submission of such comments, objections and requests for public hearing or information conference on the proposal must be submitted by March 8, 2004.

Published in the Sun Advocate January 15, 22, 29 and February 5, 2004.

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DIV OF OIL GAS & MINING