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TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

October 4, 2012

TO: Internal File

THRU: James Owen, Lead *JO*

FROM: Amanda Daniels, Environmental Scientist II *AD*

RE: Channel Repair Plan, Plateau Mining Corporation, Star Point Mine, Permit C/007/0006, Task ID # 4196

SUMMARY:

On September 25, 2012, the Division received an application from Plateau Mining Corporation (PMC) to repair two reclamation channels (SPRD-30 & SPRD-31) within the Star Point Mine Permit area that were damaged due to excess runoff and erosion caused by the Seeley Fire burn at the head of the Star Point watershed. The channels were located in a reclaimed area that the Division had granted phase II bond release on in 2008.

The application is recommended for approval.

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TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

RECLAMATION PLAN

HYDROLOGIC INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.14, 784.29, 817.41, 817.42, 817.43, 817.45, 817.49, 817.56, 817.57; R645-301-512, -301-513, -301-514, -301-515, -301-532, -301-533, -301-542, -301-723, -301-724, -301-725, -301-726, -301-728, -301-729, -301-731, -301-733, -301-742, -301-743, -301-750, -301-751, -301-760, -301-761.

Analysis:

Hydrologic Reclamation Plan

The Seeley fire ignited on June 26, 2012, and burned approximately 50,000 acres, approximately 71 acres of this is in the headwaters of the Star Point watershed. Subsequent thunderstorms in July and August of 2012 produced much higher than normal flows due to the precipitation falling on the burn scar. The flows resulting from these storms damaged the main reclamation channel (SPRD-31) and a tributary channel (SPRD-30) at the former Star Point Mine.

Regulations in R645-301-357.340 are applicable to this situation and allow the restoration of the original channel design without restarting the Phase III bond clock.

The application submitted to the Division provides precipitation data for the surrounding area and peak flow calculations for the SPRD-31 watershed for pre and post fire conditions. SPRD-30 does not receive flow from the burned areas. The precipitation data shows multiple storms that occurred in a relatively short amount of time, and this combined with the new conditions of the watershed produced much higher than expected flows within the main reclamation channel.

These high flow events cause substantial erosion to the existing channels and mobilized a large amount of the rip-rap within the channel.

The channel will be repaired according to its originally approved design, which includes regarding all areas of damaged channels, installing filter bedding, installing rip-rap, applying top-soil, and seeding and fertilizing all areas affected by the project.

Findings:

The application is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

This application is recommended for approval.

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