



State of Utah
 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
 DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

INSPECTION REPORT

Michael O. Leavitt
 Governor
 Lowell P. Braxton
 Division Director

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Partial: XXX Complete: Exploration:
 Inspection Date & Time: 12/15/99 / 8:30a.m.-11:30a.m.
 Date of Last Inspection: 11/22/99

Mine Name: Willow Creek Mine County: Carbon Permit Number: ACT/007/038
 Permittee and/or Operator's Name: Plateau Mining Corporation
 Business Address: 847 Northwest Highway 191, Helper, Utah 84526
 Type of Mining Activity: Underground XXX Surface Prep. Plant Other
 Company Official(s): Johnny Pappas
 State Officials(s): Peter Hess Federal Official(s): None
 Weather Conditions: Cold, Partly Cloudy, Temp in Teen's
 Existing Acreage: Permitted- 14,670 Disturbed- 161.55 Regraded- Seeded- Bonded- ~~161.55~~ 14,670
 Increased/Decreased: Permitted- Disturbed- Regraded- Seeded- Bonded-
 Status: Exploration/ XXX Active/ Inactive/ Temporary Cessation/ Bond Forfeiture
 Reclamation (Phase I/ Phase II/ Final Bond Release/ Liability Year)

REVIEW OF PERMIT, PERFORMANCE STANDARDS & PERMIT CONDITION REQUIREMENTS

Instructions

1. Substantiate the elements on this inspection by checking the appropriate performance standard.
 - a. For complete inspections provide narrative justification for any elements not fully inspected unless element is not appropriate to the site, in which case check N/A.
 - b. For partial inspections check only the elements evaluated.
2. Document any noncompliance situation by referencing the NOV issued at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
3. Reference any narratives written in conjunction with this inspection at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
4. Provide a brief status report for all pending enforcement actions, permit conditions, Division Orders, and amendments.

	<u>EVALUATED</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>	<u>NOV/ENF</u>
1. PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. SIGNS AND MARKERS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. TOPSOIL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE:				
a. DIVERSIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. WATER MONITORING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. EXPLOSIVES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. DISPOSAL OF EXCESS SPOIL/FILLS/BENCHES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. NONCOAL WASTE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. BACKFILLING AND GRADING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. REVEGETATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. SUBSIDENCE CONTROL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. CESSATION OF OPERATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. ROADS:				
a. CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/SURFACING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. DRAINAGE CONTROLS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. SUPPORT FACILITIES/UTILITY INSTALLATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. AVS CHECK (4th Quarter-April, May, June) _____ (date)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. AIR QUALITY PERMIT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. BONDING & INSURANCE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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(Continuation sheet)

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PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/038

DATE OF INSPECTION: 12/15/99

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

Note: The Willow Creek site is under approximately four inches of compacted snow. The Mine has initiated longwall coal production in the D-2 panel.

1. PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE

The permittee is now scalping BTU resource recovered material from the School House Canyon refuse pile and screening and separating that material, (permitted through ACT/007/038-99E). The reject from this screening/separation process largely consists of gray to white sandstone, which is a very hard, durable material. At the time 99E was being analyzed, the permittee anticipated that only a small percentage of the scalped material would be "reject". Field implementation now shows that more reject is being generated than was anticipated. In 99E, the permittee committed to maintaining the current, approved design for the School House Canyon pile; thus the "reject" must be leveled and compacted back into the refuse disposal facility.

As noted above, the reject material is very hard and durable. The permittee would like to look at utilizing this material for road base, both underground and on the surface. The material may also have potential for use as aggregate in concrete.

The permittee has sent one sample of the material for analysis. Mr. Pappas intends to inquire to MSHA the possibility of using this material in-mine for road base. If approval is received from MSHA, it will be included as part of a permitting request to the UDNR/OGM. It was recommended to Mr. Pappas that the material be analyzed relative to ASTM and/or AASHTO specifications for road base. Confirmation that this material meets these specifications would be a positive aspect to be considered in the permitting issue. Testing should also analyze for acid/toxic forming potentials due to weathering, as the use of coal mine waste for surfacing haul roads has been a SMCRA issue in the past.

4b. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS

1) Pond 001

During the re-installation of the primary spillway, coal refuse was discovered in the embankment about the culvert by the permittee. Through proper permitting action, Mr. Pappas has received approval to excavate the embankment adjacent to the primary and secondary spillways to discern the extent of the waste material. Upon completion of the excavations, all voids will be back filled and compacted using clean noncombustible fill material. Mr. Pappas anticipates that the embankment which separates pond 001 from the Willow Creek stream relocation will be raised approximately one foot. Clean fill material is being stored near the old double wide trailer office building.

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All runoff from the pile will report to pond 002.

As observed on December 17, the permittee has initiated the removal of the concrete emergency overflow at pond 001. Removal of refuse material should begin by that afternoon. Plateau Mining Corporation, the UDNR/OGM, and Earth Fax Engineering will monitor the removal of coal waste from this embankment.

2) Pond 013

As noted in the October 28, 1999 complete inspection report, the pond 013 embankment which forms a peninsula between the main depression and the emergency spillway had experienced a separation. The permittee has placed five hundred pounds of bentonite in this void and compacted the area. The area will be monitored.

3) Ponds 011, 012A, 012B

According to Mr. Pappas, errors have occurred during the survey of the sediment elevations in the aforementioned ponds. New sediment monitoring markers are to be installed and re-surveyed to correct elevations to meet "As-built" specifications.

7. COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS

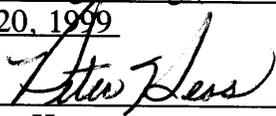
The permittee has temporarily stored coal processing waste on the pad between the Main prep plant building and pond 011. This will be hauled to the refuse disposal site as safe conditions on the access road permit.

The access road to the School House Canyon refuse disposal facility is being maintained as designed. The refuse haul truck was observed operating this day.

Note: This inspection report does not constitute an affidavit of compliance with the regulatory program of the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining.

Copy of this Report:

Mailed to: Johnny Pappas (Plateau) Henry Austin (OSM)
Given to: Pam Grubaugh-Littig (DOGM) Filed to: Price Field Office
Date: December 20, 1999

Inspector's Signature:  #46
Peter Hess