



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

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August 26, 1999

Pete Hess  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining  
c/o College of Eastern Utah  
451 East 400 North, Box 156  
Price, Utah 84501

Re: Resource Recovery From Refuse Pile, Plateau Mining Corporation, Willow Creek Mine, ACT/007/038, File #2, Carbon County, Utah

Dear Mr. Hess:

As per our phone conversation of August 24, 1999, this letter is being written to provide guidance with regard to recovering material from the Schoolhouse Canyon Refuse Pile at the Willow Creek Mine.

Plateau Mining Corporation plans to conduct a minor scalping operation at the pile to recover "Btu resources. The question arose as to whether or not this activity would require a surface mining permit. It is my opinion that it does not. Since excavation for the purpose of obtaining coal includes extraction of coal from refuse piles, this activity would be considered "Coal Mining and Reclamation Operations" (See definition at R645-100-200). PMC currently has a permit which allows them to conduct "Coal Mining and Reclamation Operations" at the Willow Creek Mine which includes the Schoolhouse Refuse area. No further permit would be needed, however the current Mining and Reclamation Plan should be revised to describe the intended activity and insure that the performance standards are going to be met. A minor amendment to the MRP should suffice for this. This is particularly important as far as addressing drainage control and stability of the refuse pile area during this activity. The operation must be conducted so as to not jeopardize the integrity of the pile and so that the final reclamation of the pile can be achieved according to the approved designs..

Maximizing the use of the coal resource, should be in the interest of all parties involved. I hope this as provided a satisfactory response. Please call if you have other questions.

Sincerely,

Daron R. Haddock  
Permit Supervisor

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cc: Johnny Pappas (PMC)  
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