



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

INSPECTION REPORT

MAN

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Michael O. Leavitt
Governor
Lowell P. Braxton
Division Director

Partial: XXX Complete: Exploration:
Inspection Date & Time: 3/7/2000 / 8:50a.m.-11:30a.m.
Date of Last Inspection: 2/4/2000

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, Vicky Miller
State Officials(s): Peter Hess Federal Official(s): None
Weather Conditions: High Clouds, Sunny, hi 30's
Existing Acreage: Permitted- 14,670 Disturbed- 161.55 Regraded- Seeded- Bonded- 161.55
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.

Table with 5 columns: EVALUATED, N/A, COMMENTS, NOV/ENF. Rows 1-21 listing various permit conditions and their evaluation status.

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(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

Note: At approximately 7 P.M. on March 6, 2000, the Carbon County area experienced an earth tremor having a magnitude of 4.1 on the Richter scale.

10. SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE

At approximately 8:50 A.M. on March 7, 2000, Mr. Johnny Pappas, Senior Environmental Engineer for the Willow Creek Mine called the Price field office to inform the Division that the Mine had experienced damage from the quake, both on the surface and underground. This report will cover the inspection of surface damage with additional information provided by the permittee relative to underground damage.

According to Messrs. Pappas and Tom Hurst, Mine Engineer at Willow Creek, the University of Utah seismicity center locates the epicenter of the quake at 39.75N latitude and 110.83W longitude at a depth of 2.3 kilometers, (1.43 miles). Plateau personnel have plotted this information, putting the quake's epicenter very close to the mouth of Dry Canyon (about 1.75 miles up Canyon of the Mine's portal area). This information is only preliminary, and may be changed and/or updated at a later time.

Two seals in the D-1 panel (area where fire occurred on November 25, 1998) were apparently cracked. Plateau has since foamed these seals, which were exhausting gases from the fire area into the bleeder entries. MSHA will require the Mine to reconstruct same immediately outby. There were also several caves in the bleeder area, the largest being approximately sixty feet in length.

Surface damage included the following:

- 1) The undisturbed by-pass diversion designated as CGD-5 on the NW side of the School House Canyon refuse disposal facility captured a great deal of material as the tremor shook the overhead escarpment. The disturbed area diversion on the NW side of the pile (designated as CGRD-8) which lies under CGD-5 was also filled with material. Photos of these ditches were taken.
- 2) Barn Canyon received extensive damage; numerous boulders rolled from the opposite side of the escarpment mentioned above tearing up the road and the sagebrush in various locations. The power line did not appear to receive any damage.
- 3) A rock rolled from the escarpment above the raw water process pond, and landed in same. As this is not a sediment pond, and no storage volume has been depleted, it is acceptable for the rock to remain in the pond.

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- 4) Several small boulders came down on the east bank of the Price River just south of the water treatment plant. This area is where a coal exploration hole was drilled during 1999.

A slide occurred opposite the Willow Creek Mine train loadout, closing US route 6 for a brief time. This area is outside of the Mine's permit area.

It is the permittee's intent to submit a permit amendment to attempt to re-route the undisturbed drainage normally carried in ditch CGD-5. Mr. Pappas feels that the vibration caused by operating a dozer during the attempt to clean out the ditch may bring down additional material from the escarpment, endangering the operator.

The cleaning of CGRD-8 and the removal of the huge boulder shown in the photos will more than likely require explosives usage, to reduce the material to a point where it can be efficiently managed by the Mine's loading equipment. Mr. Pappas was asked to verify that the explosives handling plan in the mining and reclamation plan is in concurrence with what the permittee may need to do to reduce rock size. The huge boulder shown in the photos does not appear to be capable of being handled without some sort of size reduction. Explosives usage is the most effective means of doing this.

This concludes this report.

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: March 8, 2000

Inspector's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Peter Hess  
Peter Hess

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