



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

INSPECTION REPORT

Handwritten initials/signature

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Partial: XXX Complete: Exploration:
Inspection Date & Time: 8/11/2000 / 9:00a.m.-11:30a.m.
Date of Last Inspection: 7/5/2000

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
State Officials(s): Peter Hess Federal Official(s): None
Weather Conditions: Warm, 80's, Mostly Sunny
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: A underground fire and a series of explosions occurred in the D-3 longwall panel at the Willow Creek Mine at approximately 11:30 p.m., on July 31, 2000. Two men were killed and several others were hospitalized with varying degrees of injury. The Mine portals were sealed with incombustible material shortly after all personnel were removed from the underground workings.

At present, MSHA continues to monitor the underground atmosphere through the Mine's portals as well as through exploration boreholes located in Eagle and Dinosaur Canyon. These canyons are located NE of the Mine's disturbed area. The permittee has reopened the roads which were reclaimed following a decision that they were no longer needed to monitor the November 25, 1998 fire.

As of August 5, 2000, the permittee has laid off 319 wage employees. Site maintenance and other necessary functions are being conducted by salaried personnel.

The permittee has installed two gates at the site to bar unauthorized access to the mine's facilities.

1. PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE

The review of Amendment AM00H, "Redistribution of Waters Previously Reporting to Ditch CGD-5" continues. Mr. Mike Suflita was on site on 8/7/2000 to inspect the site and to ascertain the reasoning behind the amendment. CGD-5 was blocked by a rock slide which occurred following seismic activity in the vicinity of Dry Canyon on March 6, 2000. The amendment intends to reroute undisturbed drainage previously reporting through CGD-5 to ditches CGD-18 thence to CGD-6 and CGD-7, which exist on the NW and SE sides of the School House Canyon refuse disposal facility.

2. SIGNS AND MARKERS

All signs and markers at the site appear to be in compliance with the R645 coal rules. During the course of the inspection, Mr. Pappas performed minor maintenance on several of the "stream buffer zone" signs in the vicinity of the Willow Creek channel which lies behind the mine rescue training field/double wide trailer.

8. NONCOAL WASTE

The used oil temporary storage facility located ENE of the preparation plants electrical substation was inspected. All containers holding used oil were observed to have been placed on containment pallets. Mr. Pappas estimated that approximately 350 gallons of used oil are being temporarily stored here. Used oils are properly disposed of through "Safety Kleen"; 2800 gallons were removed from the site by this vendor on 7/18/2000.

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13. REVEGETATION

Mr. Paul Baker, Reclamation Biologist with the UDNR/OGM/SLO and Mr. Pappas inspected the Willow Creek channel where the cottonwood plantings were made during July this week. Mr. Pappas reported that all plants have survived and appear to be doing well.

15. CESSATION OF OPERATIONS

No mention has been made by the permittee relative to a temporary cessation status for the site.

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-Kittig (DOGM)

Filed to: Price Field Office

Date: August 15, 2000

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

Peter Hess  
Peter Hess

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