



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

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INSPECTION REPORT

PGL
PGF
AS

Partial: _____ Complete: XXX Exploration: _____
 Inspection Date & Time: January 16, 2001 / 10 AM - 2 PM
 Date of Last Inspection: 12/6/2000

Mine Name: Willow Creek Mine County: Carbon Permit Number: CAR 7138
 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): Ms. Vicki Miller, Environmental Technician
 State Official(s): Peter Hess, Rec Spec III Federal Official(s): None
 Weather Conditions: Clear, cold; 20's Fahrenheit; 7-8 inches snow on site
 Existing Acreage: Permitted 14,670 Disturbed 161.55 Regraded _____ Seeded _____
 Status: Temporary Cessation XXX

REVIEW OF PERMIT, PERFORMANCE STANDARDS & PERMIT CONDITION REQUIREMENTS

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE:				
a. DIVERSIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. EXPLOSIVES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 ISSUES	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. SUBSIDENCE CONTROL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. CESSATION OF OPERATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 (4 th Quarter- April, May, June)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. AIR QUALITY PERMIT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. BONDING & INSURANCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

PERMIT NUMBER: C/007/038

DATE OF INSPECTION: 1/16/2001

(COMMENTS ARE NUMBERED TO CORRESPOND WITH TOPICS LISTED ABOVE)

Note: The site received twelve inches of snow on January 11-12, 2001. As observed on January 16, 2000, this accumulation had compacted to 7-8 inches. Due to limited manpower and difficulties in getting surface machinery operational, many areas of the site were not plowed and were felt to be inaccessible by vehicle. The areas included the following; the main substation, the propane tank pad, the Mine ventilation fan pad (which is still dangered off by MSHA), the areas associated with the short and long conveyor tunnels, the mine site raw coal storage pad, Gravel Canyon, Crandall Canyon, and the School House Canyon waste rock disposal facility. Some areas could be viewed at a distance. Of these, there were no noticeable compliance infractions.

1. PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE

The permittee submitted a proposal on January 9, 2001 to revise the reclamation plan for the Crandall Canyon area which is referred to as "Exhibit 20, Crandall Canyon" (C/007/038-AM01A). The Crandall Canyon surface facilities area consists of two ventilation shafts which penetrate both the "D" and "sub-3" coal seams relative to the Castle Gate #5 and #3 Mines, respectively. The intake shaft contains a large capacity hoist/man cage, while the return air shaft contains an emergency escape capsule/hoist. A substation, two sediment ponds, and several smaller buildings also exist in the area. The primary revision to the reclamation plan is relative to the access road; the land owner desires to keep same intact, to assist in future development of that area.

The permittee has submitted an amendment to remove sampling points B241 (spring) and B131 (stream) which were referred to in the October 5, 2000 inspection report. As noted, these sites exist on private land, and the access has been barred by a locked gate since March of 1999. Amendment C/007/038-AM00L has been found to be deficient and has been returned to the applicant for response.

The permittee notified the UDNR/OGM on December 11, 2000 of its intent to enter the Willow Creek Mine/preparation plant into "temporary cessation status". A review of that notice with regard to compliance relative to the R645 coal rules was completed on January 11, 2001, with a recommendation for approval/acceptance.

An application to renew the UDNR/OGM permit for the Willow Creek site was forwarded to the Division on November 11, 2000, (C/007/038-RN00). Same was determined to be administratively complete on January 22, 2001.

The permittee continues to work on a revised reclamation plan for the entire Willow Creek Mine site (excluding the Crandall Canyon area). With this revision, the permittee will be seeking a reduction of \$3,000,000 in the reclamation bond for the site.

4A. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: DIVERSIONS

All of the diversions which were evaluated were noted as containing compacted snow. Only the upper sections of any culverts which were evaluated were exposed. The permittee performed all diversion maintenance which was felt to be necessary (as determined by in-house inspections) prior to the winter season.

Some thawing was evident, where exposed on road surfaces between side-cast snow berms.

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DATE OF INSPECTION: 1/16/2001

4B. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS

MSHA pond 013A at the base of the School House Canyon refuse disposal facility continues to be inspected on a monthly basis, as approved through MSHA. The October 29, and November 28, 2000 inspections did not report any hazardous conditions or signs of instability. As neither pond 001A nor pond 013A are receiving Mine water in-flows, both have ice levels well below discharge elevation (as noted from the permittee's inspection reports). Pond 013A was not accessible this day.

The fourth quarter impoundment inspections for all other ponds at the site were conducted by Ms. Miller on various dates. These included the raw water process pond, as well as the incisement to contain the drained thickener volume. There were no hazardous conditions or signs of instability noted for any of the ponds by the permittee's qualified person. There were no hazards visible during today's field inspection of the ponds which were accessible.

4D. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: WATER MONITORING

EPA discharge monitoring reports for the months of October and November 2000 were reviewed; none of the site's outfalls had discharge during the two month period. All reports were submitted in a timely fashion.

Fourth quarter water monitoring for the site was conducted during the month of October 2000.

The following springs were reported as dry; B261, B262, B351, B352, B361, and B362. All others having reportable flows were monitored for the correct field and baseline parameters, as required by the mining and reclamation plan's ground water monitoring regime in the year prior to permit renewal.

Stream monitoring points B25 and B26 were reported as dry; all other stream monitoring points had reportable flow quantities and were analyzed for the correct field and baseline parameters, as required by the mining and reclamation plan's surface water monitoring regime in the year prior to permit renewal.

All ground water monitoring wells were checked for water level only, as required by the mining and reclamation plan's ground water monitoring regime in the year prior to permit renewal.

Ms. Miller is currently missing analytical data for two sites. It is anticipated that the fourth quarter 2000 water monitoring information will be submitted to the UDNR/OGM/SLO by the end of January.

5. EXPLOSIVES

The permittee has removed the electric detonator and explosive magazines from the Mine site. These were located on the western end of the storage pad which is located north of surface belt conveyor SC-2. Same have been returned to the lease holder.

There has not been any surface blasting conducted at the site.

INSPECTION REPORT

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PERMIT NUMBER: C/007/038

DATE OF INSPECTION: 1/16/2001

7. COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS

The fourth quarter waste rock pile inspection/certification for the School House Canyon area was conducted on December 8, 2000 by Mr. John Borla, Utah registered professional engineer.

Mr. Borla's inspection/certification reported that the disposal facility has been constructed and maintained as designed. There were no hazardous conditions or signs of structural weakness or instability reported.

As noted above, the waste rock disposal facility was not capable of being inspected this day due to snow depth on the access road.

14. SUBSIDENCE CONTROL

All data for the year 2000 annual subsidence survey has been collected, but not compiled. The survey maps have been completed, and will be submitted as part of the annual report.

15. CESSATION OF OPERATIONS

As noted above, the permittee notified the Division on December 11, 2000, of its desire to enter the Willow Creek property into temporary cessation status. As of the date of today's inspection, the permittee continues to conduct all environmental monitoring and site maintenance as required in the site's mining and reclamation plan. The December 11, 2000 letter also contained additional commitment from Plateau management to maintain all requirements of the permit/mining and reclamation plan.

21. BONDING AND INSURANCE

The permittee's current general liability insurance remains in effect until June 30, 2001.

Inspector's Signature: _____



Peter Hess #46

Date: January 26, 2001

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

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cc: James Fulton, OSM
Johnny Pappas, Plateau
Price Field office

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