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

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November 20, 2001

TO: Internal File

THRU:  Priscilla W. Burton, Sr. Reclamation Specialist/Soils, Project Team Lead

FROM: Gregg A. Galecki, Reclamation Specialist III 

RE: Exhibit 20, Revision to the Crandall Canyon Reclamation Plan, Plateau Mining Corporation, Willow Creek Mine, C/007/038-SR01A-1

SUMMARY:

The proposed changes to Exhibit 20, Section 3.7 of the Willow Creek MRP were received at the Division on January 8, 2001. The Division reviewed the submittal and returned it to Plateau Mining Corporation (PMC) with deficiencies on April 5, 2001. The PMC response to deficiencies was received at the Division on September 17, 2001. This technical memo is a review of the PMC response dated September 17, 2001. The primary change in the proposal is to leave the current road in place for the surrounding landowners. Due to a change in the proposed post-mining land use, the current amendment is considered a Significant Revision. This technical memo is a review of the Significant Revision from a hydrologic perspective.

Information found in the proposal is considered adequate to meet the minimum requirements of the State regulations.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

RECLAMATION PLAN

ROAD SYSTEMS AND OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 701.5, 784.24, 817.150, 817.151; R645-100-200, -301-513, -301-521, -301-527, -301-534, -301-537, -301-732.

Analysis:

Associated with the approval of the Significant Revision to retain the access road, the applicant demonstrated the landowner is aware of their assumed responsibility to repair and

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maintain the road. In a letter dated June 4, 2001, Mr. Martineau states, "And upon becoming owner of the property and after release of the bond, we are willing to accept maintenance of the roadway."

Findings:

Information provided is adequate to meet the Road Systems and Other Transportation Facilities section of the Regulations.

HYDROLOGIC INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.14, 784.29, 817.41, 817.42, 817.43, 817.45, 817.49, 817.56, 817.57; R645-301-512, -301-513, -301-514, -301-515, -301-532, -301-533, -301-542, -301-723, -301-724, -301-725, -301-726, -301-728, -301-729, -301-731, -301-733, -301-742, -301-743, -301-750, -301-751, -301-760, -301-761.

Analysis:

Sediment control measures

In the currently approved plan, the design calls for a rip-rap channel that is a constant 5.6 percent grade extended over a length of 3450 feet (Map Exhibit 3.7-7E). An April 19, 2001, field investigation was conducted by Division and PMC personnel to consider whether the designed rip-rap channel used the 'best technology currently available' (BTCA), and whether natural stream restoration features should be incorporated into the design. A consensus determined the approved design used the 'BTCA' based on the ephemeral nature and vegetation existing within the undisturbed channel.

Findings:

Information provided is adequate to meet the Hydrologic Information - Sediment control measures section of the Regulations.

MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF RECLAMATION OPERATIONS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.23; R645-301-323, -301-512, -301-521, -301-542, -301-632, -301-731.

Reclamation facilities maps

Analysis:

Within the amendment there are numerous references to the reclaiming of the cut-slopes within the facilities area. With the road remaining in place, cut-slopes along the road will no longer be reclaimed. In the current submittal, Maps labeled Exhibits 3.7-7A through 3.7-7C

accurately illustrate all the cut-slopes which may or may not be reclaimed. Areas not completely backfilled are due to natural outcrops at that location. Exhibit 3.7-7B illustrates areas, PRCS-1 and PRCS-2, where cut-slopes will remain that are not associated with the leaving of the road.

Final surface configuration maps

Typographic errors previously identified on Exhibits 3.7-7C and 3.7-7B have been corrected with the exception culvert CCC-17 on Exhibit 3.7-7C and the two CCD-11 ditches on Exhibit 3.7-7B. Although not correctly identified, the mis-labelling does not affect the sizing requirements of either culverts or ditches (sizing requirements are the same for both).

Reclamation surface and subsurface manmade features maps

Alternate Sediment Control Measures will be implemented at Topsoil stockpiles No.1 and No.2, as outlined in Section 3.7-64. Access to Stockpile #1 will travel along the corridor shown on Exhibit 3.7-7C, which is used by PacifiCorp Lines and Services to access their utilities. Access to Stockpile #2 will be down the travel corridor that veers off primary road P-1 and accesses an old exploration road. The Permittee has created an insert of Exhibit 3.7-7C and incorporated it onto Exhibit 3.7-7F which shows the reclamation treatment areas.

Findings:

Information provided is adequate to meet the Maps, Plans, and Cross Sections of Reclamation Operations section of the Regulations.

RECOMMENDATION:

The application adequately addresses the minimum requirements of the Regulations. Approval is recommended.