



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

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[Signature]

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INSPECTION REPORT

Partial \_\_\_ Complete XXX Exploration \_\_\_
Inspection Date: 04/18/2002 / Time: 8 AM-2 PM
Date of Last Inspection: 01/23/2002

Mine Name: Willow Creek Mine County: Carbon Permit Number: C/007/038
Permittee and/or Operator's Name: Plateau Mining Corporation
Business Address: 847 Northwest Highway 191, Helper, Utah 84526
Company Official(s): Mr. Johnny Pappas, Senior Environmental Engineer
State Official(s): Peter Hess Federal Official(s): None
Weather Conditions: Clear / Breezy / Temperature in mid-forties
Type of Mining Activity: Underground XXX Surface \_\_\_ Prep Plant \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_
Existing Acreage: Permitted 14670 Disturbed 161.55 Regraded \_\_\_ Seeded \_\_\_
Status: Active

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.

Table with 5 columns: Item, EVALUATED, N/A, COMMENTS, NOV/ENF. Rows include categories like PERMITS, SIGNS AND MARKERS, TOPSOIL, HYDROLOGIC BALANCE, etc.

**INSPECTION REPORT**  
(Continuation Sheet)

PERMIT NUMBER: C/007/038

DATE OF INSPECTION: 04/18/2002

(COMMENTS ARE NUMBERED TO CORRESPOND WITH TOPICS LISTED ABOVE)

Note: At present, the permittee is in the process of removing equipment from the underground area of the Willow Creek Mine. The longwall mining machinery that was in operation in the D-3 panel when the July 31, 2000 explosion and fire occurred is inundated and will not be recovered.

**4A. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: DIVERSIONS**

Due to high winds in the County over the past several days, some culvert inlets and ditches contain tumbleweed. The permittee is addressing this as expeditiously as possible.

All inspected diversions appear to be capable of functioning as designed.

**4B. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS**

Mr. Pappas performed the first quarter 2002 impoundment inspections for the Willow Creek site on March 12, 2002. Mr. Pappas did not report any signs of instability or other hazardous conditions. According to the permittee's Attachment A, Sediment Pond Storage Capacities, ponds 011A (clean coal storage pile containment) and 013A, School House Canyon refuse facility pond, have used 50% and 45% of their sediment storage volumes respectively.

Mr. John Borla performed the fourth quarter 2001 and annual certification of the Willow Creek impoundments on December 19, 2001. There were no hazardous conditions reported.

As observed this day, ponds 001, 002, 011, 012A, 013, and 015 were dry. There were no unusual conditions noted.

**4D. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: WATER MONITORING**

The Division's fourth quarter water monitoring deficiency list for the Willow Creek site revealed four monitoring points for which insufficient data had been provided. These included UPDES point 015 (upper pond in Crandall Canyon). As of this report date, the Division has not finalized its water monitoring data base procedures for the entry of UPDES information. Points B241 and B131 have been removed from the surface and ground water monitoring regimes via Division approval of AM00L Sample point B44 was renamed B22, and then renamed B22-1 after B22 was dropped in 1996 due to a discrepancy in its location. All points have been adequately addressed by the permittee. The Division must revise the list of monitoring points for the Willow Creek site to correct the aforementioned problems.

According to Mr. Pappas, the first quarter 2002 water monitoring information for the Willow Creek site will be submitted by April 18 or 19, 2002.

Discharge monitoring reports for the sites eight UPDES outfalls were reviewed for the months of January and February 2002. All were noted as being "no discharge"; all reports were submitted in a timely fashion. The March reports are being readied for submittal to the various government entities; again, a "no discharge" condition exists for all outfalls.

**4E. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS**

The sites current UPDES permit remains in effect until April 30, 2003.

INSPECTION REPORT  
(Continuation Sheet)

PERMIT NUMBER: C/007/038

DATE OF INSPECTION: 04/18/2002

5. **EXPLOSIVES**

There are no explosive or detonator magazines at the site; same were removed when temporary cessation status was entered.

7. **COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS**

The first quarter refuse pile inspection / certification was performed by Mr. John Borla, Utah registered professional engineer, on March 28, 2002. No hazardous conditions or signs of instability were noted. The pile is classified as inactive by the permittee.

Today's field inspection of the refuse facility revealed that all draining diversions appear to be capable of functioning as designed. The pile is crowned in the middle allowing runoff to report to the drainage diversion on either side. There was no evidence of spontaneous combustion. Noncoal waste on or within the refuse material is not obvious.

The permittee has stored some coal mine waste outside of the temporary storage area for this type of material at the #1 or Main access portal. This is material which was used to backfill the portals during the sealing of the fire post-July 31, 2000. The temporary storage area is filled to capacity. As the need for the extraneous material may change without notice, it was decided to leave same at the present location.

9. **PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES**

The site's current spill prevention control and countermeasure plan was last certified on November 12, 1999. The permittee will find it necessary to review and recertify same by November of this year.

A review of that plan indicates that the permittee does not consider sediment ponds as part of the secondary containment for petroleum based products.

14. **SUBSIDENCE CONTROL**

The extraction of coal at the Willow Creek Mine did not occur in 2001. The permittee conducted subsidence monitoring in 2001. As indicated within the report submitted as part of the annual report, **"the submitted data indicate that no subsidence has occurred over the area due to mining. Subsequent monitoring of the control points that exhibited slight movement in prior years, show no subsidence."**

15. **CESSATION OF OPERATIONS**

The Willow Creek site remains in temporary cessation status.

18. **SUPPORT FACILITIES / UTILITY INSTALLATIONS**

The Crandall Canyon shaft facilities were inspected this day. It was previously thought that the caps on the shafts were not vented, but today's inspection revealed that they are. The two-inch fiberglass vent pipes that extend fifteen feet above the seals are well hidden. Although the mining and reclamation plan classifies these seals as temporary, they have been constructed with two layers of heavy duty "I" beams, welded at each junction, filled in with concrete. Pictures of these seals can be seen in the "O" drive, 007038, Images, 4182002.

INSPECTION REPORT  
(Continuation Sheet)

PERMIT NUMBER: C/007/038

DATE OF INSPECTION: 04/18/2002

21. **BONDING AND INSURANCE**

The permittee's current general liability insurance is in effect until June 30, 2002.

The amount of reclamation bond for the site has recently been revised and approved by the Division in the amount of \$7, 866,000.00.

Inspector's Signature:   
Peter Hess #46

Date: April 24, 2002

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

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