



IN REPLY REFER TO:

## United States Department of the Interior

C0070038 Incoming  
cc: Pam  
Pete

## OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING

Reclamation and Enforcement

1999 Broadway, Suite 3320

Denver, Colorado 80202-5733

October 6, 2003

Mr. Lowell P. Braxton  
Division Director  
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining  
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210  
P.O. Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5801

Re: Decision Document to Approve Phase III Bond Release at the Upper Crandall Canyon Leach Field, Plateau Mining Corp., Willow Creek Mine, C/007/038-BR03A

Dear Mr. Braxton,

This letter acknowledges the Office of Surface Mining's (OSM) receipt and review of the subject decision document dated August 19, 2003, which was prepared by the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM). The Willow Creek Mine permit area that includes the Upper Crandall Canyon Leach Field contains Federal lands. OSM is in agreement with the decision document and hereby provides OSM concurrence to release Phase III bond on the Upper Crandall Canyon Leach Field as documented below and in accordance with the Federal regulations at 30 CFR 740.15 (d) (3), and 30 CFR 944.30, Article IX, section B, of the Federal-State, Federal lands cooperative agreement.

The decision document thoroughly recounts the permitting, operational, and regulatory history of the Willow Creek Mine Upper Crandall Canyon Leach Field. The DOGM decision dated August 19 documents the notifications required by the permittee to affected surface land owners, surface land owners adjacent to the permit area, government land management agencies, local governmental and planning agencies, and utilities. These notifications are required to process and approve the Phase III bond release application in accordance with Utah Rule R645-301-880, Requirement to Release Performance Bonds.

The bond release application is for 7.51 acres in the Upper Crandall Canyon area. The bonded area for the entire Willow Creek Mine 161.55 acres. There will be no bond reduction as a result of this bond release. The total amount of the bond for the Willow Creek Mine will not change. OSM concurs with the above bond amounts proposed for release and retention.

DOGM has received no public comments concerning the bond release request. DOGM conducted the bond release inspection required at Utah Rule R645-301-880.210 on

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DIV. OF OIL, GAS &amp; MINING

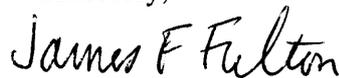
May 22, 2003. OSM was a participant in the bond release inspection. OSM has reviewed DOGM's bond release inspection findings and has no comments or concerns.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) participated in the bond release inspection of the mine on May 22, 2003. BLM concurred with the proposed Phase III bond release via letter dated September 8, 2003 (copy attached). The DOGM May 14, 2003, Technical Analysis document at pages 9 and 10 document that all required public notices and surface landowner notifications were made in a timely manner prior to the bond release inspection.

OSM understands that DOGM has retained adequate bond to ensure final reclamation and environmental monitoring requirements. The permittee has met the requirements of the approved Utah Coal Regulatory Program at R645-301-880 for release of performance bonds. The permittee has met reclamation requirements on the Upper Crandall Canyon Leach Field. OSM concurs with DOGM's findings and BLM's bond release decisions

Thank you and your staff for coordinating this Federal lands bond release with OSM's Denver Field Division. Please address any questions concerning this letter to Mitch Rollings at [mrolling@osmre.gov](mailto:mrolling@osmre.gov) or to (303) 844-1400 x1445.

Sincerely,



James F. Fulton, Chief  
Denver Field Division

cc: Plateau Mining Corporation  
BLM, Salt Lake City, UT; Price, UT



## United States Department of the Interior

### BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Utah State Office  
P.O. Box 45155  
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155  
www.ut.blm.gov

IN REPLY REFER TO:

3482  
SL-029093  
SL-071737  
(UT-923)

SEP 08 2003

Pamela Grubaugh-Littig  
Permit Supervisor  
State of Utah  
Division of Oil Gas and Mining  
1594 West North Temple Street, Suite 1210  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

Re: Phase III Bond Release – Leach Field Area, Crandall Canyon, Plateau Mining Corporation,  
Willow Creek Mine Permit, C/007/038

Dear Ms. Grubaugh-Littig:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has received your request for our concurrence for the subject mine reclamation bond release. This letter documents the Bureau's concurrence with regards to the laws governing the Federal coal lease and the public lands.

The leach field area, that is located above the Crandall Canyon shafts of the Castle Gate Mine complex (now under Willow Creek Mine Permit), was inspected with a joint agency visit on May 22, 2003. The BLM's jurisdiction on this area is limited as the leach field is on private surface. Release of the reclamation bond will have no affect on the Federal leased coal. Private use of the canyon will not affect public lands north on the ridge.

We therefore have no objections to Phase III bond release for the reclaimed leach field located in Crandall Canyon of the Castle Gate Mine complex. Should you have any questions, please contact Stephen Falk at the Price Field Office (435-636-3605) or Stan Perkes of my staff (801-539-4036).

Sincerely,

James F. Kohler  
Chief, Solid Minerals Branch

cc: Office of Surface Mining, 1999 Broadway, Suite 3320, Denver, Colorado 80202-5733  
Price Field Office, case file, (UT-070)  
Plateau Mining Corporation, 847 NW Hwy 191, Helper, Utah 84526

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