

May 7, 2003

TO: Internal File

THRU: Wayne H. Western, Environmental Scientist III/Engineering, Team Lead

FROM: Dana Dean, P.E./Senior Reclamation Hydrologist

RE: Phase III Bond Release Application, Plateau Mining Corporation, Willow Creek Mine, C/007/038-BR03A

SUMMARY:

Plateau Mining Corporation (PMC) submitted a Phase III Bond Release application for 7.51 acres in Crandall Canyon owned by C-Canyon, L.C. The area lies above the Crandall Canyon shafts and is known as the “leach field.”

The Division approved an amendment to change the post-mining land use for the 7.51-acre area from grazing and wildlife to recreational use in December of 2001.

Information found in the application is adequate to meet the minimum requirements of the regulations.

The Division should approve the application.

TECHNICAL MEMO

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

RECLAMATION PLAN

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:

Groundwater Monitoring

There are no groundwater-monitoring sites located within or near the area in question.

Surface Water Monitoring

Site B25 monitors Crandall Canyon Creek, an ephemeral drainage. It is located just outside the disturbed area at the southeastern extreme of the area to be released. The Permittee monitored site B25 sixty-six times from April 1981 to August 2002. The creek only flowed 12 of the 66 times the Permittee observed it for monitoring purposes. There are no significant data trends or changes in quality/quantity during the monitoring period. Site B25 is included in the current approved monitoring plan, which calls for the Permittee to monitor it quarterly. That requirement will remain until/unless the Permittee submits an amendment to modify the monitoring requirements.

Diversions: General

The Permittee will leave diversions associated with the road in place. They are: culverts CCC-1, CCC-2, CCC-3, and CCC-4; and diversion ditches CCD-1, CCD-2, CCD-3, CCD-4, and CCD-5.

Sediment Control Measures

Division representatives made a field visit to this area of Crandall Canyon on April 23, 2003. Vegetation is growing on the site and the pocking continues to retain moisture and prevent runoff. The reclaimed area is performing as well as, or better than the surrounding area in preventing sediment loss. Division representatives did not note any significant rills or gullies.

Findings:

Information found in the application is adequate to meet the minimum requirements of this section of the regulations.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Division should approve the application.