

INSPECTION REPORT

Partial XXX Complete Exploration
 Inspection Date: 07/17/2003 / Time: 8-9:30 AM
 Date of Last Inspection: 06/27/2003

Mine Name: Willow Creek Mine County: Carbon Permit Number: C/007/038
 Permittee and/or Operator's Name: Plateau Mining Corporation
 Business Address: P.O. Box 30, Helper, Utah 84526
 Company Official(s): Messrs. John Borla, Dennis Ware, Johnny Pappas
 State Official(s): Peter Hess Federal Official(s): Messrs. Ted Farmer, Bruce Andrews
 Weather Conditions: Clear, Temperature in seventies to eighties Fahrenheit
 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.

		EVALUATED	N/A	COMMENTS	NOV/ENF
1.	PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	HYDROLOGIC BALANCE:				
a.	DIVERSIONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b.	SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c.	OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d.	WATER MONITORING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e.	EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	EXPLOSIVES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.	DISPOSAL OF EXCESS SPOIL/FILLS/BENCHES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.	COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10.	SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11.	CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12.	BACKFILLING AND GRADING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13.	REVEGETATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14.	SUBSIDENCE CONTROL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15.	CESSATION OF OPERATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16.	ROADS:				
a.	CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/SURFACING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b.	DRAINAGE CONTROLS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17.	OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18.	SUPPORT FACILITIES/UTILITY INSTALLATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19.	AVS CHECK (4 th Quarter- April, May, June)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20.	AIR QUALITY PERMIT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21.	BONDING & INSURANCE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

INSPECTION REPORT
(Continuation Sheet)

PERMIT NUMBER: C/007/038

DATE OF INSPECTION: 07/17/2003

(COMMENTS ARE NUMBERED TO CORRESPOND WITH TOPICS LISTED ABOVE)

18. SUPPORT FACILITIES/UTILITY INSTALLATIONS

The permittee received an approval from the U.S. Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration, Denver, Colorado for the backfilling plan pertaining to the Crandall Canyon airshafts on June 13, 2003. A conditional approval was received from the Division incorporating that plan into the Willow Creek mining and reclamation plan on July 9, 2003. Final approval of that permit amendment is pending, but is only dependent upon the receipt of five clean copies from the permittee.

Upon receiving the MSHA approval, the permittee made preparation to implement the safety devices required to prepare to lift the shaft cap(s) from the collars. The permittee's contractor also initiated the concrete breaking process to make the chunks of material that will make up the plug at the bottom of the shafts. Cutting/pushing of the fill material has also been initiated by the contractor.

As observed this day, a methane concentration of 0.2% was determined to exist immediately beneath the #2 or return airshaft cap. The MSHA plan stipulated that a detected concentration of less than 3% was necessary prior to removing the cap.

Prior to initiating the removal of the #2 cap, the permittee had Nielson Construction remove the earth material from around the shaft collar to approximately seven feet below the cap/collar interface. Two track hoes were used to do this. Similarly, two track hoes were used to initiate the cap removal. After the initial attempt to remove the cap failed, a hydraulic hammer/track hoe device was brought in to attempt to break a hole in the cap. An electrical switch failure on this machine prevented the use of it to punch the hole in the cap.

A second attempt to remove the cap was made utilizing the dual track hoe arrangement. One of the machines was able to obtain a grip on the west corner of the cap and raise it enough to allow the other track hoe operator a place to insert the digging edge of the second track hoe bucket. The lifting off and peeling back of the cap with the two-track hoe arrangement proceeded quickly from this point forward. The permittee's contractor had completed the removal of the #2 cap by approximately 8:50 AM.

All individuals involved walked to the #1 airshaft. Mr. Borla inserted the gas detection probe into the void beneath the cap below the elevator (main air shaft). At this time, it was determined that the #1 shaft was exhausting in a greater volume and at a higher concentration of methane (5-6%) than what had been experienced prior to removing the #2 cap.

The approved plan is to allow the #1 shaft to continue to vent at the current level. Hopefully, the venting/dilution process should proceed quickly such that the methane concentration will drop below 3%, which is the point at which the second cap can be removed.

The permittee will keep all of the interested government agencies informed of the situation in Crandall Canyon.

Inspector's Signature: _____
Peter Hess #46

Date: July 17, 2003

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, via email
Price Field office
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