

July 22, 2003

TO: Internal File

THRU: Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Wayne H. Western, Environmental Scientist III, Engineering
Priscilla W. Burton, Environmental Scientist III, Soils
Dana Dean, P.E., Environmental Scientist III, Hydrology

RE: Technical Field Visit For Phase III Bond Release for Leach Field Area at
Crandall Canyon, Plateau Mining Corporation, Willow Creek Mine, C/007/038

Other Attendees: Mitch Rollings OSM
Steve Falk, BLM
Pam Grubaugh-Littig DOGM
Dana Dean DOGM
Jerriann Ernsten DOGM
Priscilla Burton DOGM
Wayne Western DOGM
Johnny Pappas, Plateau Mining Corporation
Rex Sacco, Carbon County G.I.S. Office
Dave Levanger, Carbon County Planning and Zoning Commission

Date & Time: May 22, 2003
Arrive 1:15 PM departed 2:30 PM

PURPOSE:

To conduct a Phase III bond release inspection for the leach field area at Crandall Canyon, which is within the Willow Creek permit boundary. The landowner, Mr. Reed Martineau, was invited to the inspection, but did not attend. The area is fee surface with a Federal bond. The surrounding area has been grazed since before the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, according to Mr. Sacco.

TECHNICAL FIELD VISIT

OBSERVATIONS:

The group hiked to the top of the leach field area. The Division's staff and Johnny Pappas gave a history of the area. The Division had approved a change in the post-mining land use for recreation. The landowner had requested the change so that he could build a cabin on the site and for other recreation uses. The officials from Carbon County were interested in the postmining land use because the construction of multiple cabins would require a zoning change.

Mr. Dave Levanger indicated that the County had recently revised the zoning classification for all Critical Environmental 1 and 2 (CE-1 and CE-2) sites to either Mountainland or Watershed. Watershed would now be the classification for lands with greater than or equal to 30% slopes. Mountainland classification would be reserved for slopes less than 30 % (17 degrees or 3.5h:1v). No development is allowable in the Watershed zoning. Within the Mountainland zone, a private landowner may build a single dwelling on 40 acres if there is a drain field and water source. A larger development might be allowed in the Mountainland zone if a presentation is made to the County Commission. Requirements are placed on the larger development for open space, sewage disposal, and acreage per dwelling.

The area had been vegetated and met the minimum requirements for bond release. The leach field remained intact for possible use by the landowner. A small stone structure was on the site. Mr. Martineau will maintain drainage structures on the road. The attendees did not see any noticeable erosion, or problems with the drainage structures.

The group then walked down to the vehicles. At the parking area, each member was asked to comment on the site conditions. Everyone agreed that the site met the minimum requirements for Phase III bond release in light of the postmining land use change. The County representatives indicated that they would like to have the pines on the north facing slopes logged and would put the County Forester in touch with Mr. Martineau.

RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSIONS:

The Division should proceed with Phase III bond release for leach field area of Crandall Canyon at the Willow Creek Mine.