

# TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

## Coal Regulatory Program

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November 24, 2003

TO: Internal File

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

RE: 2003 Midterm Permit Review, Plateau Mining Company, Willow Creek Mine, C/007/0038, Task ID #1751

### **SUMMARY:**

The Division initiated a midterm review of the Willow Creek Mine Permit via correspondence with Mr. Johnny Pappas of the Plateau Mining Corporation on October 16. The letter outlined the following elements as those selected for review:

- “1. An AVS check to ensure that Ownership and Control information is current and correct.*
- 2. A review to ensure that the Plan has been updated to reflect changes in the Utah Coal Regulatory Program, which have occurred subsequent to permit approval (One area of emphasis is to ensure compliance with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Windy Gap Process).*
- 3. A review of the plan to ensure that the requirements of all permit conditions, division orders, notice of violation abatement plans, and permittee initiated plan changes are appropriately incorporated into the plan document.*
- 4. A review of the applicable portions of the permit to ensure that the plan contains commitments for application of the best technology currently available (BTCA) to prevent additional contributions of suspended solids to stream flows outside of the permit area.*
- 5. A review of the bond to ensure that it is in order and that the cost estimate is accurate and is escalated to the appropriate year dollars.*

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6. *The Division may conduct a technical site visit in conjunction with the assigned compliance inspector to document the status and effectiveness of operational, reclamation, and contemporaneous reclamation practices.”*

Division representatives conducted a site visit on November 20.

This memo addresses items 1, and 4.

**TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:**

**GENERAL CONTENTS**

**IDENTIFICATION OF INTERESTS**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 773.22; 30 CFR 778.13; R645-301-112

**Analysis:**

The Division approved new ownership and control information submitted by the Permittee on May 27. There have been no changes in the corporate structure for Plateau Mining Company or RAG American Coal Company since that time.

**Findings:**

The Permittee has complied with the Identification of Interests section of the regulations.

**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:**

**Hydrologic Reclamation Plan**

The Mining and Reclamation Plan contains information pertaining to the control of sediments in the permit area and to prevent sediment from leaving the permit area. The plan employs a combination of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to control runoff and sediment. These include berms, ditches, culverts, several sedimentation ponds, silt fences, and straw bales. The plan employs the best technology currently available to control sediments and to prevent the mine from contributing to suspended solids in nearby streams. All water leaving the permit area is sampled and reported to the Division of Water Quality and must meet National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System standards.

**Findings:**

The Permittee has complied with the Hydrologic information section of the regulations.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Division should approve the mid-term evaluation.