



The State of Utah

Department of  
Natural ResourcesDivision of  
Oil, Gas & MiningROBERT L. MORGAN  
*Executive Director*LOWELL P. BRAXTON  
*Division Director*OLENE S. WALKER  
*Governor*GAYLE F. McKEACHNIE  
*Lieutenant Governor*

## Representatives Present During the Inspection:

OGM Priscilla Burton Environmental Scientist III

**Inspection Report**

|                  |                         |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Permit Number:   | C0070038                |
| Inspection Type: | TECHNICAL               |
| Inspection Date: | Thursday, June 10, 2004 |
| Start Date/Time: | 06/10/2004 12:00:00 PM  |
| End Date/Time:   | 06/10/2004 3:00:00 PM   |
| Last Inspection: |                         |

Inspector: Priscilla Burton, Environmental Scientist IIIWeather: overcast, windy, thunder, lightening, light rain.InspectionID Report Number: 301Accepted by: dhaddock  
06/18/2004Permittee: **PLATEAU MINING CORP**Operator: **PLATEAU MINING CORP**Site: **WILLOW CREEK MINE**Address: **847 NW HWY 191, HELPER UT 84526**County: **CARBON**Permit Type: **PERMANENT COAL PROGRAM**Permit Status: **ACTIVE**

## Current Acreages

|           |                        |
|-----------|------------------------|
| 14,670.00 | <b>Total Permitted</b> |
| 161.55    | <b>Total Disturbed</b> |
|           | <b>Phase I</b>         |
|           | <b>Phase II</b>        |
|           | <b>Phase III</b>       |

## Mineral Ownership

- Federal  
 State  
 County  
 Fee  
 Other

## Types of Operations

- Underground  
 Surface  
 Loadout  
 Processing  
 Reprocessing

**Report summary and status for pending enforcement actions, permit conditions, Divison Orders, and amendments:**

A Field visit was conducted to observe progress of topsoil replacement at the Castle Gate prep plant and status of topsoil pile at the Willow Creek mine site.

Inspector's Signature

Date

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Priscilla Burton, Environmental Scientist III

Inspector ID Number: 37

**Note:** This inspection report does not constitute an affidavit of compliance with the regulatory program of the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining.

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**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 Not Applicable.
  - b. For PARTIAL inspections check only the elements evaluated.
2. Document any noncompliance situation by reference 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, Divison Orders, and amendments.

|  | Evaluated                | Not Applicable           | Comment                             | Enforcement              |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Permits, Change, Transfer, Renewal, Sale                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Signs and Markers   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Topsoil   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4.a Hydrologic Balance: Diversions                               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4.b Hydrologic Balance: Sediment Ponds and Impoundments          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4.c Hydrologic Balance: Other Sediment Control Measures          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4.d Hydrologic Balance: Water Monitoring                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4.e Hydrologic Balance: 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Noncoal Waste   | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13. Revegetation   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" 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.a Roads: Construction, Maintenance, Surfacing                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 16.b Roads: 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 type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 19. AVS Check  | <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 and Insurance  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 22. Other  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### **3. Topsoil**

Topsoil and cover has been replaced on the slope east of the clean coal stockpile. Gouging, seeding, and mulching has also been completed at this site. The slope is very steep (about 1.5h:1v) and the gouges were about 3 ft deep. Gouges continued all the way up to the disturbed area boundary on this slope. According to Mr. Pappas, the trackhoe that was used to gouge this slope was held on the slope with a dozer! To the north and west of this slope is the flat clean coal storage yard. The coal storage yard pad is being gouged. The grading of this coal yard site blends very well into the undisturbed area. Existing soil from the mine yard and the sediment pond embankment has been used to cover the slopes of the preparation plant area and the lower portion of the Schoolhouse Refuse site. The topsoil pile at the Willow Creek Mine site is not currently being worked and appears to have been depleted. (see photos)

### **4.b Hydrologic Balance: Sediment Ponds and Impoundments**

Pond 013 has been removed and the embankment was used to create the cover over the refuse in the lower portion of the schoolhouse refuse site. The ephemeral stream channel runs through the center of the refuse site. The embedded rocks have also been covered with one foot of soil. The culvert CGC-5 underneath primary road #1 appears to be at a slightly higher elevation than the channel and this was brought to Mr. Pappas' attention. (photos taken).

### **7. Coal Mine Waste, Refuse Piles, Impoundments**

Coal waste from the clean coal storage yard is being graded against the Schoolhouse Cyn access road cut slope. A pocket of coal mine waste was noted on the slope north of CGRD-6 at the north end of the storage yard. This was assumed to have been a pre-SMCRA deposit of coal, but it is within the disturbed area. A photograph was taken.

### **12. Backfilling And Grading**

Four haul trucks were working to replace overburden and soil against the highwall behind the office complex. The highwall is about 1/2 backfilled. A water truck was positioned to water the soil as it is being placed against the highwall. A dozer was compacting the material in lifts at the highwall. The fill is coming from the slope below the tunnel (north of the Willow Creek topsoil storage site). This soil is well vegetated with 3 ft high sagebrush that has grown since site construction in 1998. A trackhoe was loading the trucks. The soil was very dry and should be moistened during loading of the trucks. This was brought to Mr. Pappas' attention. (photos taken)

### **13. Revegetation**

Seeding is completed everywhere there is mulch (see photos). The Permittee is waiting for hydroseeding contractor (Kelly Ellis) to return from vacation before continuing with gouging. Seeding on the clean coal slope and the clean coal storage yard is likely to be affected by the stands of cheat grass on the adjacent undisturbed slope (very noticeable in seed). Photo of slope taken.

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**Inspection Continuation Sheet**

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**16.a Roads: Construction, Maintenance, Surfacing**

Primary road in the Willow Creek office complex area has buckled under the weight of the haul trucks. Water aggravates the situation, so these roads are being swept clean to control dust.