



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
Reclamation and Enforcement
P.O. Box 46667
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JUN 10 2005
DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

UT-0000

June 3, 2005

Utah Division of Oil, Gas, & Mining
Coal Regulatory Program
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
P.O. Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

Tracy
C/007/038
TASK 2243

RE: Plateau Mining Corporation - "Willow Creek" Mine - Application for a Permit Revision,
Phase I Bond Release, Gravel Canyon

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is in response to the Utah Division of Oil, Gas, & Mining's (UT-DOGGM) May 19, 2005, request for a decision, under 30 CFR 944.30, whether the above subject permit revision constitutes a mining plan modification.

Mining plan approvals by the Secretary of the Interior are required under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, 30 U.S.C. 181, *et seq.* before coal mining can occur on Federal lands. This letter serves to document OSM's determination whether or not a mining plan approval from the Secretary is required for the above permitting action.

OSM's review of the Application for a Permit Revision, Phase I Bond Release, Gravel Canyon, has determined that it requests Phase I Bond Release for an area associated with the Gravel Canyon portion of the Willow Creek Gate mine, Utah State permit C/007/038, that was reclaimed in the fall of 2004.

Based on a review of the activities associated with the permit revision, OSM has determined that the proposal does not meet the requirements of 30 CFR PART 740 and PART 746. Therefore, the proposed permit revision does not constitute a mining plan action requiring Secretarial approval.

OSM's decision was based solely upon the Federal regulations under 30 CFR PART 746 and not the technical aspects of the revision application itself. Consequently, OSM's decision does not relieve UT-DOGGM from coordinating the review and approval of the Application for a Permit Revision, Phase I Bond Release, Gravel Canyon, with other Federal agencies for compliance with other Federal regulations.

OSM also electronically transmitted the May 19, 2005, request to the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service for their review and comment.

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In telephone conversation of May 23, 2005, the U.S. Forest service stated it had no comments or concerns with the permit revision.

In an electronic transmittal dated June 1, 2005, the Bureau of Land Management stated in its opinion the permit revision did not constitute a mining plan action requiring Secretarial approval.

Please notify the applicant of our decision on this matter.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter or approval, please contact Carl R. Johnston, Utah Federal Lands coordinator, at (303) 844-1400, extension 1500.

Sincerely,



Ranvir Singh
Manager, Northwest Branch

cc: BLM - Utah State Office
BLM - Price Field Office
USFS - Manti-La Sal NF
Denver Field Division