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State of Utah

Department of  
Environmental Quality

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*Executive Director*

DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY  
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*Lieutenant Governor*

November 1, 2006

Mr. Dennis Ware, Environmental Coordinator  
Plateau Mining Corp.  
PO Box 30  
Helper, Utah 84526

Subject: Reconnaissance Inspection – Willow Creek Mine Site

Dear Mr. Ware:

On October 19, 2006 I conducted a reconnaissance inspection, while already in the area, in regards to the Willow Creek Mine site and UPDES Permit No. UTG040012. Specifically I observed the sediment pond, outfall location and receiving waters of Willow Creek.

Enclosed is a copy of the inspection report for your records. If you have any questions, please contact me at (801) 538-6779 or by e-mail at [jstudenka@utah.gov](mailto:jstudenka@utah.gov).

Sincerely,

Jeff Studenka, Environmental Scientist  
UPDES Permits Section

Enclosures

cc (w/encl): Darcy O'Connor, EPA Region VIII  
Claron Bjork, SE District Health Department  
Dave Ariotti, SE District Engineer  
Pam Grubaugh-Littig, Division of Oil Gas & Mines



## **INSPECTION PROTOCOL**

UPDES Permit #: UTG040012  
Inspection Type: Reconnaissance Inspection  
Inspection Date: October 19, 2006

Jeff Studenka of the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) visited the reclaimed Willow Creek Mine site, while already in the area. No one else was on site.

## **FACILITY DESCRIPTION**

Location: ~1 mile East of US 6 on US 191  
Near Helper in Carbon County, UT 84526

Coordinates: Outfall 001 (sed. pond) latitude 39° 42' 45", longitude 110° 51' 25"

Average Flow: None to date and none expected.

Receiving water: Willow Creek

Process: Former underground coal mining operation facility. The mining operations are no longer present and reclamation activities were completed several years ago. Outfall 001 remains on site as a sedimentation pond utilized to collect surface water runoff. The facility has recently been sold to the College of Eastern Utah. The transfer or termination of this UPDES permit coverage will most likely happen in 2007.

## **INSPECTION SUMMARY**

There were no deficiencies noted during the previous inspection for follow up. A tour of the facility included observing the reclaimed areas and the sedimentation pond followed by the receiving stream of Willow Creek. There were no deficiencies observed during the inspection.

## **DEFICIENCIES**

No deficiencies with respect to the UPDES permit were noted during the inspection.

## **REQUIREMENTS**

None