

# TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

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March 1, 2006

TO: Internal File

THRU: Wayne Western, Team lead

FROM: Joe Helfrich, Biologist

RE: Prep Plant and Refuse Pile Phase I and III, Plateau Mining Corp., Willow Creek Mine, C007/0038, Task ID #2424

## **SUMMARY:**

On September 23, 2005 the Division received an application for Phase one bond release on 49.1 acres of land related to the Schoolhouse Canyon Refuse Pile and Phase III bond release on 46.2 acres of land related to the Prep Plant area at the Willow Creek mine. This memo will include a review of the Biology section of the regulations where applicable.

**TECHNICAL MEMO**

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**TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:**

**RECLAMATION PLAN**

**POSTMINING LAND USES**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.15, 784.200, 785.16, 817.133; R645-301-412, -301-413, -301-414, -302-270, -302-271, -302-272, -302-273, -302-274, -302-275.

**Analysis:**

The post mining land use for the preparation plant area for Phase III bond release is for industrial use by the Price River Water Improvement District, (PRWID), to the address immediate and long term expansion of its water treatment and distribution system. The area is stable and shows no signs of erosion or off-site deposition of additional suspended solids. The expansion includes the construction of additional treatment ponds and use of the existing buildings associated with the expansion of the water improvement district. The Permittee reclaimed the refuse pile area that contains approximately 46.76 acres; the postmining land use is wildlife habitat. The Barn Canyon shaft facility area, (2.34acres), was not disturbed and the bond can be released as part of a mine plan modification (remove the site from the disturbed area.)

**Findings:**

The information provided is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

**REVEGETATION**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 785.18, 817.111, 817.113, 817.114, 817.116; R645-301-244, -301-353, -301-354, -301-355, -301-356, -302-280, -302-281, -302-282, -302-283, -302-284.

**Analysis:**

**Revegetation: Standards For Success**

Site visits to evaluate the erosion potential of the property the Permittee transferred to the Price River Water Improvement district were completed on April 6, 2005 and March 16, 2006. The reclaimed areas have established vegetation. The eastern portion of the property slopes

**TECHNICAL MEMO**

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toward the reclaimed roughened area and a well-graded rip rapped diversion ditch. Recent snowmelt and previous precipitation events have shown no signs of erosion. The remaining portion of the property slopes to the southwest into a portion of the reclaimed area and a well-vegetated ditch. Runoff from all locations on this property will remain inside the reclaimed area and does not show signs of developing erosion. The property to be evaluated for erosion potential was walked in its entirety and photos were taken. The School House refuse pile was reclaimed in 2005 and shows established vegetation. The application which includes the refuse pile is has been reviewed for Phase I bond release.

**Findings:**

The information provided is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The application is recommended for approval.