

0032



State of Utah

Department of  
Environmental Quality

Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D.  
*Executive Director*

DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY  
Walter L. Baker, P.E.  
*Director*

JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.  
*Governor*

GARY HERBERT  
*Lieutenant Governor*

RECEIVED  
MAY 07 2007  
DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

May 3, 2007

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

Subject: Compliance Sampling Inspection – Crandall Canyon Site.

Dear Mr. Ware:

On April 25, 2007 staff from the Division of Water Quality conducted a compliance sampling inspection in regards to the Willow Creek Mine-Crandall Canyon #2 Mine Shaft dewatering site and UPDES Permit No. UTG040012. Specifically we observed the subsided mine shaft and dewatering operations, along with the outfall location, effluent discharge and receiving waters. A sample of the effluent discharge was collected as well.

Enclosed is a copy of the inspection report for your records. We appreciate your efforts to keep us informed of the operations. 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,

Handwritten signature of Jeff Studenka in black ink.

Jeff Studenka, Environmental Scientist  
UPDES Permits IES Section

Enclosures

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

F:\wp\GP-Coal Mines\Plateau Mining\2007cov.ltr.doc

Handwritten signature in blue ink, possibly "J. Studenka", with initials "JK" and a date "e/007/0038".

## **INSPECTION PROTOCOL**

UPDES Permit #: UTG040012  
Inspection Type: Compliance Sampling Inspection  
Inspection Date: April 25, 2007

Jeff Studenka and Dan Griffin of the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) met with Dennis Ware of Plateau Mining Corp. and Pete Hess of DOGM while visiting the reclaimed Willow Creek Mine site in Crandall Canyon to perform an inspection and sample the effluent from the #2 Mine Shaft dewatering event.

## **FACILITY DESCRIPTION**

Location: ~3 miles north of Helper, UT off US 6 HWY, ~1 mile west of the HWY.  
Coordinates: Outfall 016 (new discharge) lat. 39° 45' 06", long. 110° 54' 48"

Average Flow: ~150 gpm (Outfall 016), Zero discharge to date from Outfall 001.

Receiving water: Crandall Canyon drainage → Price River

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 the sedimentation pond utilized to collect surface water runoff at the main office facility, which has recently been sold to the College of Eastern Utah. Outfall 016 was added to the existing UPDES general permit coverage, via a permit modification effective April 16, 2007, to provide for the temporary dewatering of the #2 Mine Shaft in Crandall Canyon, which subsided several hundred feet in November 2006 and subsequently filled with ground water. A pump has been placed into the mine shaft water column and was currently being pumped out thru a flow meter at a rate of 150 gpm and into the natural canyon drainage. Pumping and discharge operations started on April 19, 2007 and are expected to continue a few more days until most of the water has been removed and the shaft can be safely backfilled and the area reclaimed once again.

## **INSPECTION SUMMARY**

A tour of the facility included observing the reclaimed areas of Crandall Canyon and the subsided vertical mine shaft with the temporary dewatering operations, the effluent discharge and the receiving waters. The discharge water was observed to be mostly clear, with no odor or problems noted. Samples were collected for TSS, TDS, Iron and Oil & Grease. There were no deficiencies observed during the inspection.

## **DEFICIENCIES**

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

## **REQUIREMENTS**

None