

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

March 17, 2008

TO: Internal File

THRU: James D. Smith, Permit Supervisor *DS 4/1/08*

FROM: Wayne H. Western, Team Lead *WHW*

RE: Removal of Barn Canyon Shaft Facility, Plateau Mining Corporation, Willow Creek Mine, C/007/0038, Task ID #2940

SUMMARY:

On March 3, 2008, the Division received a request from the Permittee to remove the Barn Canyon Shaft from the MRP. The main reasons for this were to reduce the disturbed area associated with the Willow Creek Mine and to reduce the bond amount by \$100,000.

The Barn Canyon Shaft was a facility that the Division permitted but the Permittee never constructed. The Permittee notified the Division on December 11, 2000 that the Willow Creek Mine would go into temporary cessation. On September 6, 2002, the Permittee informed the Division that the Willow Creek Mine would go into permanent cessation. Therefore, the Permittee has no need to construct the Barn Canyon Shaft.

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TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

RECLAMATION PLAN

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Regulatory Reference: PL 95-87 Sec. 515 and 516; 30 CFR Sec. 784.13, 784.14, 784.15, 784.16, 784.17, 784.18, 784.19, 784.20, 784.21, 784.22, 784.23, 784.24, 784.25, 784.26; R645-301-231, -301-233, -301-322, -301-323, -301-331, -301-333, -301-341, -301-342, -301-411, -301-412, -301-422, -301-512, -301-513, -301-521, -301-522, -301-525, -301-526, -301-527, -301-528, -301-529, -301-531, -301-533, -301-534, -301-536, -301-537, -301-542, -301-623, -301-624, -301-625, -301-626, -301-631, -301-632, -301-731, -301-723, -301-724, -301-725, -301-726, -301-728, -301-729, -301-731, -301-732, -301-733, -301-746, -301-764, -301-830.

Analysis:

The Permittee met the general requirements of this section. The Permittee requested permission to remove the Barn Canyon Shaft area the disturbed area. The facilities were never constructed and the mine is in full scale reclamation.

The application mostly consists of removing the Barn Canyon Shaft facilities from the mining and reclamation plan. The Barn Canyon Shaft facilities were a stand alone section of the MRP. With few minor exceptions, removing the facilities entails removing the Barn Canyon Shaft section from the MRP.

Findings:

The information provided in the bond reduction application is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section.

BONDING AND INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 800; R645-301-800, et seq.

Analysis:

Determination of Bond Amount

The Permittee met the requirements of this section. The Permittee requested that the bond amount be reduced by \$100,000 because the Barn Canyon Shaft facilities are removed from the MRP. The Division will allow the bond adjustment of

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For clarification, the Permittee must submit updated reclamation cost estimates with the clean copies for incorporation. The Permittee must remove the information in the bonding section about the Barn Canyon Shaft and provide an update summary sheet without.

Findings:

The information provided in the bond reduction application is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section. For clarification, the Permittee must submit updated reclamation cost estimates with the clean copies for incorporation. The Permittee must remove the information in the bonding section about the Barn Canyon Shaft and provide an update summary sheet without.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Division should approve the amendment.