

WATER QUALITY MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

March 12, 2009

TO: Internal File

THRU: James D. Smith, Permit Supervisor *JS 03/19/09*

FROM: April A. Abate, Environmental Scientist II *AAA 3/19/2009*

RE: 2008 Fourth Quarter Water Monitoring, Plateau Mining Corporation (PMC), Willow Creek Mine, C/007/0038-WQ08-4, Task ID #3201

The Willow Creek Mine is in reclamation. The mines have been closed and sealed. The disturbed areas around the portals have been regraded and seeded. The most recent surface operations took place in Willow Creek Canyon, about a mile from the junction between U.S. Highway 6 and State Highway 191. The reclaimed area in Crandall Canyon is also part of the Willow Creek permit area.

There are no ground water sites monitored during the reclamation phase.

1. Was data submitted for all of the MRP required sites? YES NO

Under the reclamation plan, surface water monitoring is required for sites listed in Exhibit 7-3 and shown on Map 15.

Springs- There are no springs monitored during the reclamation phase.

Streams- There are six surface water-monitoring sites:
 B3N (Willow Creek above power plant),
 B-5 (Price River below processing plant above Willow Creek),
 B-6 (Price River above coal processing plant),
 B25 (Crandall Canyon Creek),
 B26 (lower reach of Crandall Canyon)
 B151 (Willow Creek – 3 miles above Willow Creek Mine)

The reclamation sampling water quality list is presented in Section 13, p. 28. Sampling is conducted quarterly. PMC tries to monitor the sites within a two week period from March 15th, June 10th, September 5th and November 30th to attempt to

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collect data that coincides with first thaw, spring high flow, end of summer low-flow and last sample before freeze-up.

All required stream sampling locations were monitored for the quarter on November 25, 2008. No flow was reported from the Crandall Canyon sampling points (B25 and B26).

Wells- There are no operational monitoring wells.

UPDES- There are no currently active UPDES monitoring locations at the site.

2. **Were all required parameters reported for each site?** YES NO

3. **Were any irregularities found in the data?** YES NO

Several parameters were reported outside of two standard deviations for stream samples B3N – at the Willow Creek Power Plant and upstream sample B151. Bicarbonate, alkalinity, hardness and dissolved magnesium were slightly elevated from concentrations reported in the previous quarter.

Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) is a recognized pollutant for the Price River Watershed. TDS standards for this section of the Price River Watershed are set at 1,700 mg/L based on the Utah Administrative Code Rule R317-2. Stream samples collected are meeting this standard.

4. **On what date does the MRP require a five-year resampling of baseline water data.**

Not specified in MRP. It should be updated at mid-term or five year renewal.

5. **Based on your review, what further actions, if any, do you recommend?**

The Division is aware that the operator was having equipment problems with his water quality meter during the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2008. Dissolved oxygen measurements were analyzed by the laboratory and were reported at elevated concentrations. At last correspondence, the operator was reviewing options to repair the meter and will have it repaired in time for 1st quarter sampling in 2009.