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*C/007/038 Incoming  
#3467  
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Plateau Mining Corporation  
P.O. Box 30  
Helper, Utah 84526

March 3, 2010

James D. Smith  
Permit Supervisor  
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210  
P.O. Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, Utah 851145801

Subject: Phase I Bond Release, Plateau Mining Corporation, Willow Creek Mine, Crandall Canyon Surface Facilities, C/007/0038, Task ID #3453

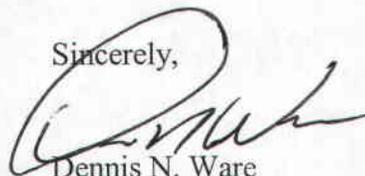
Dear Mr. Smith:

Plateau Mining Corporation (PMC) has reviewed the Divisions list of deficiencies pertaining to the Crandall Canyon Phase I Bond Release Application and agrees with said deficiencies.

The Permittee has corrected said deficiencies with the attached materials. The attached includes a C1 and C2 and all the materials necessary to correct the deficiencies. This C1, C2 and attachments is intended to replace pages in and make additions to the original phase I bond release application package. While only a few lines were added to Appendix 3.7X the entire appendix with the exception of the attachments is being replaced because of pagination issues. Once these replacements and additions are made you will have a complete and presumably acceptable phase I bond release application.

If you, or any of the reviewers, have any questions concerning PMC's responses please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Dennis N. Ware  
Controller and Administrative Manager  
Office 435:472:4375  
Cell 435:650:2951

File in:

Confidential

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Expandable

Refer to Record No *0007* Date *03032010*

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For additional information

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DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

# APPLICATION FOR COAL PERMIT PROCESSING

# COPY

Permit Change  New Permit  Renewal  Exploration  Bond Release  Transfer

**Permittee:** Plateau Mining Corporation

**Mine:** Willow Creek Mine

**Permit Number:** C/007/0038

**Title:** Crandall Canyon Phase I Bond Release, Response to TA, Task ID # 3453

**Description, Include reason for application and timing required to implement:**

Phase I Bond Release TA Response, Task ID #3453

**Instructions:** If you answer yes to any of the first eight (gray) questions, this application may require Public Notice publication.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No            | 1. Change in the size of the Permit Area? Acres: _____ Disturbed Area: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> increase <input type="checkbox"/> decrease. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No            | 2. Is the application submitted as a result of a Division Order? DO# _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No            | 3. Does the application include operations outside a previously identified Cumulative Hydrologic Impact Area?                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No            | 4. Does the application include operations in hydrologic basins other than as currently approved?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No            | 5. Does the application result from cancellation, reduction or increase of insurance or reclamation bond?   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | 6. Does the application require or include public notice publication?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No            | 7. Does the application require or include ownership, control, right-of-entry, or compliance information?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No            | 8. Is proposed activity within 100 feet of a public road or cemetery or 300 feet of an occupied dwelling?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No            | 9. Is the application submitted as a result of a Violation? NOV # _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No            | 10. Is the application submitted as a result of other laws or regulations or policies?<br><i>Explain:</i> _____                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No            | 11. Does the application affect the surface landowner or change the post mining land use?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No            | 12. Does the application require or include underground design or mine sequence and timing? (Modification of R2P2)                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No            | 13. Does the application require or include collection and reporting of any baseline information?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No            | 14. Could the application have any effect on wildlife or vegetation outside the current disturbed area?   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | 15. Does the application require or include soil removal, storage or placement?   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | 16. Does the application require or include vegetation monitoring, removal or revegetation activities?  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | 17. Does the application require or include construction, modification, or removal of surface facilities?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No            | 18. Does the application require or include water monitoring, sediment or drainage control measures?  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | 19. Does the application require or include certified designs, maps or calculation?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No            | 20. Does the application require or include subsidence control or monitoring?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No            | 21. Have reclamation costs for bonding been provided?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No            | 22. Does the application involve a perennial stream, a stream buffer zone or discharges to a stream?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No            | 23. Does the application affect permits issued by other agencies or permits issued to other entities?   |

**Please attach four (4) review copies of the application. If the mine is on or adjacent to Forest Service land please submit five (5) copies, thank you.** (These numbers include a copy for the Price Field Office)

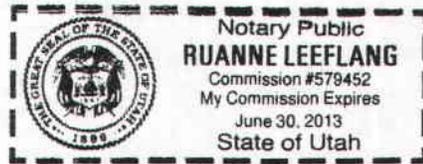
I hereby certify that I am a responsible official of the applicant and that the information contained in this application is true and correct to the best of my information and belief in all respects with the laws of Utah in reference to commitments, undertakings, and obligations, herein.

Dennis N Ware  
Print Name

[Signature] Controller, 3/13/2010  
Sign Name, Position, Date

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2010

Ruanne LeeFlang  
Notary Public



My commission Expires: 6/30, 2013  
Attest: State of Utah } ss:  
County of Co. Emery

<p><b>For Office Use Only:</b></p>	<p>Assigned Tracking Number:</p>	<p>Received by Oil, Gas &amp; Mining</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">RECEIVED</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">MAR 08 2010</p> <p>DIV. OF OIL, GAS &amp; MINING</p>
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Crandall Canyon area includes surfacing the road from U.S. Highway 6 to the hoist facilities area with asphalt pavement. The Utah Department of Air Quality was consulted when the facilities layout was developed and they had no further requirements. Additional air quality and control information is presented in Chapter 11.

### **3.7-4(11) General Maintenance**

**Roads** - Roads P-1 and A-1 will be inspected periodically for erosion, rutting, pothole formation and shoulder deterioration. Grading will be performed as necessary to minimize surface irregularities. Drainage ditches and culverts associated with road drainage will also be inspected periodically and cleaned of flow-impeding debris and sediment. If the roads are damaged by a catastrophic event, such as a flood or earthquake, they will be repaired as soon as practical after the damage has occurred.

**Ponds** - The ponds will be maintained as required by R645-301-742.221. Sediment will be removed when it reaches the 60% sediment cleanout level, as described in Section 3.7-4(2).3. Spillway culverts and channels will be inspected for deterioration and erosion, and corrective measures taken as necessary.

The information above relates to the construction and operational phase of the Crandall Canyon portion of the Willow Creek permit.

### **3.7-5 Reclamation Plan**

The Crandall Canyon facilities were reclaimed during 2003 according to the approved reclamation plan. Broadcast seeding for these areas occurred during the Fall of 2003. Seedlings were planted during the fall of 2004. All details regarding as-built reclamation of the site can be found in Appendix 3.7X. As-built topography can be seen on Exhibit 3.7-12AB and 3.7-13AB. The reclamation treatment area can be seen on Exhibit 3.7-16AB. Watershed locations can be seen on Exhibit 3.7-17AB. Cross-sections and channel profiles can be seen on Exhibits 3.7-14AB and 3.7-15AB.

#### **3.7-5(1) General**

Plateau Mining Corporation, a subsidiary of RAG American Coal Company, formerly Cyprus Plateau Mining, a subsidiary of Cyprus/Amex Coal (the parent company of Amex Coal Company), developed the Willow Creek site approximately 1 mile east of the intersection of routes US 6 and 191. Development of that site and the associated underground mine workings will incorporate the use of the Crandall Canyon shafts. Therefore, reclamation and reclamation scheduling associated with the Crandall Canyon site will be coordinated with the reclamation of Willow Creek.

The reclamation topography plan is presented on Exhibit 3.7-7A, 7B, and 7C.

**APPENDIX 3.7X**  
**CRANDALL CANYON AS-BUILT RECLAMATION**

PLATEAU MINING CORPORATION  
Carbon County, Utah

Prepared by  
EARTHFAX ENGINEERING, INC.  
Midvale, Utah

August 2009

**APPENDIX 3.7X**

**CRANDALL CANYON AS-BUILT RECLAMATION**

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**LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

Attachments

ATTACHMENT 1	AS-BUILT RECLAMATION HYDROLOGY CALCULATIONS
ATTACHMENT 2	PUBLIC NOTICE AND LETTERS TO AGENCY AND LAND OWNERS
ATTACHMENT 3	BOND RELEASE CALCULATIONS
ATTACHMENT 4	RECLAMATION CERTIFICATION
ATTACHMENT 5	#2 SHAFT REWORK IN 2007 - 2008

**LIST OF EXHIBITS**

EXHIBIT 3.7-12AB	CRANDALL CANYON AS-BUILT RECLAMATION TOPOGRAPHY AREA B .....MS
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EXHIBIT 3.7-15AB	CRANDALL CANYON AS-BUILT RECLAMATION CHANNEL PROFILES .....MS
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EXHIBIT 3.7-17AB	CRANDALL CANYON AS-BUILT RECLAMATION WATERSHED MAP .....MS

The maps listed above have been included in the map section of Exhibit 20 Section 3.7. The maps are not included in this appendix but are referenced here to indicate that as-built reclamation maps have been prepared.

### **3.7-5 Reclamation Plan**

#### **3.7-5(1) General**

With the closure of the Willow Creek Mine and Preparation Plant, the Crandall Canyon Shafts were no longer needed. Thus, the Crandall Canyon facilities have been reclaimed according to the approved reclamation plan. The Crandall Canyon facilities were initially reclaimed during the summer of 2003 with final seeding in the fall of 2003. Seedlings were planted in the reclaimed area in the fall of 2004.

A small amount of settlement of the backfilled No. 1 (western) shaft occurred in 2004 (less than 10 feet) and 2005 (less than 5 feet) and additional soil from the immediate area around the No. 1 shaft was added and approximately 0.4 acre of ground around the shaft regraded in the fall of 2005. The newly-reclaimed area was reseeded immediately after regrading was complete.

In November 2006, settlement of the backfill in the No. 2 (eastern) ventilation shaft was discovered. Soil from the immediate area was dozed into the shaft until water from the shaft began to spill into the adjacent drainage. The shaft area was then temporarily fenced as a safety measure. Based on the results of analyses of a water sample collected from the shaft in April 2007, this water was pumped from the shaft to the Crandall Canyon drainage. However, the lower portion of the water column contained elevated concentrations of suspended solids. Therefore, a holding basin was constructed adjacent to the shaft and the water was pumped into the holding basin. Additional soil was brought to the site and the shaft was backfilled to the surface. The off-site material used to backfill the shaft was obtained from a pile of excess cut material generated by the Utah Department of Transportation during rework of a section of U.S. Highway 6.

In July 2008, after allowing the backfill to settle, the backfilled soil was excavated to a depth approximately 2 feet below the shaft collar. Bentonite was emplaced on the backfilled soil to the top of the shaft collar and soil was mounded over the shaft above the adjacent ground elevation to allow for future settlement. Once the water percolated from the holding basin, the area around the shaft that had been disturbed (about 1.2 acres) was regraded. The area was reseeded as soon as

backfilling was complete. As-built reclamation topography can be seen on Exhibits 3.7-12AB and 3.7-13AB.

The Disturbed Area Boundary ("DAB") for the Crandall Canyon site contains 32.96 acres. Within the DAB 16.93 acres are included in the reclaimed area. The reclaimed area includes 1 acre of reestablished road and 15.93 acres that have been deep gouged and seeded (see Exhibit 3.7-16AB). The area outside the reclaimed area but within the DAB is a combination of undisturbed areas and a road accessing private property above the reclaimed area. PMC is requesting Phase I bond release on the entire property.

### **3.7-5(2) Postmining Land Use**

The postmining land use of Crandall Canyon is wildlife habitat, grazing, and recreational use. The as-built reclamation plan supports these land uses. A more detailed description of the different land uses is listed below.

The postmining land use for Crandall Canyon is for, but not limited to: landowner access or use; hunting; cabin sites; access for the Bureau of Land Management for land management; access for grazing; and/or other recreational uses.

In order to facilitate the postmining land use, the majority of primary road P-1 remains as during the facilities operational phase, a new primary road R-1 was constructed through the reclaimed area as shown on Exhibit 3.7-12AB, and road A-1 was reestablished from where R-1 ends and extends to the leach field whereby unimpeded access is provide to the landowner for access to existing jeep trails or for establishing new trails at his discretion. Design information related to road P-1 is provided in Section 3.7-3(2). Design information related to the construction of road R-1 is provided in Section 3.7-5(3)(3) and on Exhibit 3.7-7D. Design information related to road A-1 is provided in Section 3.7-3(7)(2). By maintaining a road to access the upper parts of the canyon there will be minimal impacts to the reclaimed areas. Access on the road from Highway 6 is restricted by a locked gate.

Since the access road to the reclaimed area and upper Crandall Canyon is built to blend in with the postmining topography, have an erosion resistant surface, and control runoff, it enhances the watershed areas within the mine area. The road will allow for the maintenance of the runoff and alternative sediment control structures, implementation of vegetation husbandry practices necessary to ensure revegetation success, and encourage travel through the canyon on an established corridor, thus reducing unwanted impact to soil and vegetation during the reclamation period and beyond.

The watershed has been improved by providing access into Crandall Canyon via a permanent road with proper drainage controls, restoring the natural drainage patterns; reshaping all cut and fill slopes to be compatible with the postmining land use; reshaping all cut and fill slope to complement the drainage pattern of the surrounding terrain, and implementing the land treatment and revegetation practices provided in the reclamation plan. These improvements result in the following benefits:

The reduction of the amount of total suspended solids or other pollutants discharged to ground or surface water from the permitted area, improved public or private uses of such water;

Reduced flood hazards resulting from peak flow discharges from precipitation or thaws being lower; and

Not adversely affecting the ecology and diminution of any surface water or any existing or planned use of surface or ground water, during every season of the year, by varying the total volume of flow from the permitted area.

Since the road has been built to blend with the postmining topography and will not negatively affect the land or postmining land uses, leaving the road in place after bond release will not require a variance from the approximate original contour requirements of R645-301-553.600.

Letters to and comments from the legal or equitable owner of record of the surface areas to be affected, concerning the proposed land use are provided in Appendix 3.7V. The landowner in Crandall Canyon has requested that the primary access road be left in place after reclamation to permit access to his property for recreational purposes by his family and friends. Access to the C-Canyon, L.C. property will provide a higher and better use of the land by facilitating their ability to

obtain the necessary local governmental approval for improvements to be made and uses to be carried on at the property. Therefore, this reclamation plan addresses the reclamation of the facilities area while leaving the access road and its associated drainage structures intact after reclamation.

The areas shown in Exhibits 3.7-7A and 13AB will be used to facilitate access to the various canyons owned by the adjacent landowner. The landowner does not want any additional reclamation to occur in these areas which would preclude his ability to ingress and egress at will to his property. Plateau Mining Corporation has received Phase III bond release on the leach field area. The landowner is now responsible for maintenance of the road (road A-1) and the associated drainage control system on his property.

According to the approved reclamation plan, the only permanent features of the operational mining plan to be retained are the leach field piping, and the primary access road (from Highway 6 through the leach field) and its associated drainage structures. The leach field piping was left in-place since the piping is covered by a minimum of four feet of soil and removing the piping would result in disturbance of established vegetation.

Currently, the disturbed area in the canyon below elevation 7000 feet is zoned by Carbon County as Mining and Grazing (MG-1) land. Land above 7000 feet is zoned as Critical Environmental (CE-1) because of watershed characteristics.

### **3.7-5(3) Reclamation Work**

Reclamation work in Crandall Canyon consisted of demolition, backfilling of the shafts, backfilling and grading of the general area, resoiling, seeding and mulching.

#### **3.7-5(3)(1) Demolition**

Reclamation activities included removal of all surface structures, including but not limited to the main hoist building, emergency hoist, ventilation equipment, warehouse, substation, culverts, hydrants, and above-ground. Additionally, all sections of the Hilfiker retaining walls not covered by a

minimum of 4 feet of soil were removed. Materials of value were recycled and non-combustible waste generated from the demolition was typically used to backfill the shafts or was buried under a minimum of 4 feet of soil cover.

Nonhazardous and nonflammable materials such as concrete and steel were used as backfill in the shafts and areas such as cut slopes. These materials were incorporated into the backfill in a manner that did not create voids within the backfill or reduce the effective compaction necessary for backfilling. These materials were intermixed with backfill to ensure voids were filled and compacted. Concrete slabs or foundations buried in-place were covered with a minimum of four feet of fill to ensure adequate root depth and soil moisture retention for vegetation. Whenever possible, steel was salvaged rather than buried. However, rebar or other steel that is incorporated in the concrete was not removed from the concrete prior to burial.

No hazardous waste was encountered during reclamation of the site. Thus, no hazardous waste needed to be disposed of. The only wastes handled during reclamation were concrete and steel which were used to backfill the shafts and against cut-slopes.

### **3.7-5(3)(2) Permanent Sealing of Shafts**

As part of demolition and backfilling activities during reclamation, both shafts have been backfilled. As indicated in Section 3.7-5(1), both shafts experienced some settlement following initial backfilling. Additional backfill was added to mitigate this settlement, with most of this backfill being obtained from the immediate vicinity of the shaft. At the No. 2 (eastern) shaft, some of the additional backfill was brought to the shaft from an off-site location. This soil was obtained from a pile of excess cut material generated by the Utah Department of Transportation and stored prior to that time near the junction of U.S. Highways 6 and 191. A 2-foot thick layer of bentonite was also placed in the No. 2 shaft to minimize the potential for water to rise in the shaft to the surface. The permanent closure of the shafts have been designed to prevent access to the mine workings by people, livestock, fish and wildlife, and machinery and to keep acid or other toxic drainage from entering ground or surface waters, as per R645-301-551.

Monitoring of the ground surface at each shaft indicated that backfill in the No. 1 shaft settled less than 0.1 foot within the 1-year period following additional reclamation work. Backfill in the No.2 shaft settled 1.4 feet in the period of September 2008 to August 2009. Since settlement is generally most rapid immediately following backfilling, and since both shafts have been backfilled with excess soil to accommodate future settlement, the shafts are currently considered stable. Both shaft areas will be monitored for additional settlement. If settlement continues, additional soil will be hauled in as necessary to repair the damage. All activities to repair settlement damage will be conducted in such a manner as to disturb as little of the reclaimed area as possible.

### **3.7-5(3)(3) Backfilling and Grading**

The as-built reclamation topography is presented on Exhibits 3.7-12AB and 13AB. The reclamation has been completed to be in compliance with the R645 requirements for obtaining approximate original contour, as discussed in Section 3.7-5(3)(4). The engineering issues relating to reclamation of the walls, roads, shafts, and utilities are discussed in this section. The hydraulic and sediment control issues are presented in Section 3.7-5(4).

During the grading process, the following work was performed:

1. Elimination of berms and temporary operational diversions,
2. Grading to establish surface overland flow drainage, and backfilling of shafts,
3. Construction of permanent stream channels,
4. Removal of certain operational culverts,
5. Removal of sediment ponds,
6. Construction of alternative sediment controls, and
7. Construction of reclamation road R-1. This is a primary road with compacted roadbase or equivalent and an approximate 2% top slope towards a ditch on the inside of the road (see Exhibit 3.7-12AB). The road will be used for access for the intended post mining land uses.

The site was graded to establish drainage and stabilize cut slopes. Sediment ponds remained in place as long as possible during grading work. During construction straw bales, silt fences, and depressions were also used to control sediment.

The as-built topography, as shown on Exhibit 3.7-12AB and 13AB, meets the criteria set forth in R645-301-553, Backfilling and Grading. The disturbed areas were graded to approximate the original contours by blending soil into the surrounding area and creating landforms that resemble the surrounding terrain. Reclamation slopes are concave in cross section and do not exceed a slope of 2:1 except in very small areas. To the extent possible, cut slopes were backfilled during reclamation operations. Retained cut slopes exist where there was insufficient material and/or space to cover the cut slope (see Exhibit 3.7-13AB). Limiting slopes to 2:1 resulted in some cut slopes that could not be covered since the undisturbed slope is greater than 2:1. The retained cut slopes were graded to blend into the existing topography as much as possible. Cut slopes were analyzed by EarthFax Engineering, Inc. for slope stability. A copy of the "Slope Stability Analyses" is provided in Appendix 3.7R and additional information is provided in Appendix 3.7U.

The as-built reclamation topography is compatible with the approved postmining land use, and provides adequate drainage and long-term stability as required by R645-301-553.520. There are no highwalls in Crandall Canyon, since the only access to the underground workings was through the shafts. There were no spoil piles, refuse piles, or small depressions retained after reclamation.

The primary objectives of the backfilling and grading were to reclaim the main channel, reclaim cut slopes in the canyon where possible, sufficiently cover remaining building foundations with a minimum of 4 feet of soil, and backfill the shafts. Backfill was placed in the shafts in accordance with the approved MSHA Shaft Backfilling/Sealing Plan (Appendix 3.7N). No slopes exceed the maximum safe angle of repose. As discussed in Section 3.7-5(3)(5) and Appendix 3.7R, a 36 degree slope would have a critical safety factor of 1.4 under static conditions. However, since slopes greater than 2:1 can be erosionally unstable, slopes within the reclaimed area were generally constructed to lie at or less than a 2:1 slope. Only very small areas exceed a slope of 2:1.

Cut material necessary to cover the facilities area came from two on-site sources. Initially, topsoil was removed from the disturbed area and stored in stockpiles No. 1 and 2. However, since stockpile No. 1 was contaminated with noxious weeds it was not used. Therefore, topsoil was taken only from stockpile No. 2, located along access road P-1, and from soils located within the facility area. If the soil in stockpile No. 1 is used in the future, it will not be used within 4 feet of the surface

to prevent the spread of noxious weeds in the reclaimed area. The soils report in Appendix 3.7S concluded that at least the upper 8 feet of soil in the facility area can be used as substitute topsoil. The approximate volume of substitute topsoil available was 51,400 cubic yards, which is far more than was needed to cover the reclaimed area with 1 foot of topsoil. Soils in the facility area were used to achieve final grade. All of the topsoil from stockpile No. 2 was used in the reclamation of the site.

No acid forming or toxic materials were encountered during reclamation

As part of reclamation, access was maintained in Crandall Canyon for reclamation repairs as needed and for other intended postmining land uses. The only segment of the access road affected by reclamation activities was the portion of road within the site area that was replaced with reclamation road R-1. Road R-1 is generally located where the upper portion of operational road P-1 and the lower portion of operational road A-1 were located (Exhibit 3.7-5B).

The surface of reclamation road R-1 received a minimum 6-inch layer of compacted roadbase. The surface of the road typically slopes at an angle of 2% towards the roadside ditch along the inside of the road. A typical cross-section is shown on Exhibit 3.7-14AB.

**Electrical Power Lines** – Primary power was conveyed into Crandall Canyon via an electrical distribution line from Hardscrabble Canyon. All of the poles and wire have been removed with the exception of some poles that are being used as raptor habitat. Ground that was disturbed during reclamation of the power line right-of-way was roughly regraded and seeded.

**Leach Field Piping and Other Underground Utilities** – Underground utility piping (electrical, water, sewer, LP gas) was removed only to the extent that it interfered with reclamation grading. The ends of the pipes that were abandoned in place were capped. The approximate locations of the gas line and water lines are described on Exhibits 3.7-5A and 3.7-5B

#### **3.7-5(3)(4) Approximate Original Contour Compliance**

The natural topography of Crandall Canyon is characterized by steep canyon side slopes and a relatively broad canyon bottom, as shown in Exhibits 3.7-1 and 3.7-2. Relative to the drainage flows of the geologic past, the recent flows are relatively small. Consequently, the main stream meanders on top of, and erodes slowly through, unconsolidated materials that were deposited previously during high flow, high energy events. These conditions have resulted in various configurations of stream alignments along the base of the canyon, including stream alignments against one side of the canyon, centered alignments, meandering alignments, and two alignments coexisting in the same reach of the canyon where subdrainages intersect the canyon bottom. The areas adjacent to the incised channel tend to be relatively flat in cross-section. Exhibit 3.7-7D presents cross-sections A-A' through G-G', which were cut through the undisturbed areas of the canyon shown on Exhibit 3.7-7B. These sections depict the flat areas associated with the broad canyon bottom, and the steep slopes where the stream has recently eroded through unconsolidated materials.

To achieve the approximate original contour, the as-built reclamation returns the channel to near the center of the canyon floor, with concave fill slopes extending from the undisturbed boundary to the reclaimed channel. This has been done to allow for the fill slopes to be less than the angle of repose for the granular backfill, and flatter than a 2:1 slope in most areas. In the areas of the shafts, a topographically high area has been constructed over the shafts. These high areas will aid in maintaining the location of the reclaimed channels. These topographic highs have been constructed in such a manner as to blend in with existing topographic features to the extent possible.

All cut slopes within the disturbed facilities area were reclaimed consistent with current UDOGM regulations. As allowed by these regulations, limited portions of cut slopes remain where they mimic or blend with existing topography and where fully reclaiming the cut slopes would result in slopes with a static factor of safety less than 1.3. Exhibit 3.7-12AB shows the location of cut slopes that remain. The cut slopes that remain have experienced no signs of abnormal instability.

### **3.7-5(3)(5) As-Built Reclaimed Slope Stability**

According to R645-301-553.130, reclamation slopes shall not exceed the angle of repose and shall have a minimum long-term static safety factor of greater than 1.3. The angle of repose of any soil is a function of the soil gradation, moisture content, and degree of compaction. It is expected that the reclamation fill will be fairly dry. According to the soil sampling program conducted by EarthFax (1995a), residual and overburden soils in the Crandall Canyon area generally consist of sandy loam to loamy sand with 5 to 15% clay and 5 to 75% rock (gravel through boulders). Because of the variability in the soil texture, the angle of repose of the soil will also vary.

The angle of repose of loose sand generally varies between 30 and 35 degrees (Holtz and Kovacs, 1981). According to Tomlinson (1986), the angle of repose for loose, dry sand can vary from 28.5 degrees for round uniform sand grains to 34 degrees for angular well-graded sand grains. Increasing the density of the sand can increase the angle of repose to 33 to 46 degrees, respectively. According to Bowles (1984), unsaturated, non-plastic remolded and undisturbed soils can have an angle of repose between 34 and 36 degrees.

Though slopes up to 36 degrees (1.4:1 slope) would have a critical safety factor of 1.4 under static conditions (see Appendix 3.7R), some sloughing of surface soils may occur, especially as the soils dry or if the soils are placed in a loose condition. Since soil may be erosionally unstable at inclinations greater than 2:1, reclamation slopes were generally constructed at or less than a 2:1 slope. The area of slope that is greater than 2:1 is very limited in area and has short slope lengths. The only places that the reclamation slopes are steeper than 2:1 are where the reclamation slope is tying into a natural slope with a slope greater than 2:1.

### **3.7-5(3)(6) Resoiling**

Topsoil from Topsoil Stockpile 2 and on-site materials were used for resoiling. The on-site materials were demonstrated to be acceptable growth media as indicated previously. Backfilling of the shafts utilized the majority of the material removed during the construction of the shafts.

As noted previously, settlement of the backfill in the ventilation shafts required additional reclamation work. Shaft No. 1 was backfilled solely with material that was locally available. Shaft

No. 2 was backfilled with both local soil as well as soil that was imported to the site from two sources:

- Excess cut material from road work on U.S. Highway 6 and
- Bentonite to serve as an impermeable cap.

The upper 4 feet of backfill above the adjacent ground surface at Shaft No. 2 was backfilled with local soil.

Access to the shafts, following the backfilling, by wildlife and humans is precluded by fencing the areas and posting the appropriate signage. This fencing and signage may be removed after it has been determined that all settlement has ceased.

### **3.7-5(3)(7) Seeding and Mulching**

Following placement of the growth media and prior to application of the reclamation seed mix, hay was incorporated into the growth media at a rate of 2 tons per acre. This was done to improve soil structure for aeration purposes, increase micropore space, and improve the water holding capacity of the soil. Incorporation of the hay mulch occurred during deep gouging.

No fertilizer was used during the reseeding activities associated with the main canyon reclamation project. Following seeding with the approved Crandall Canyon Reclamation Seed Mix (see Section 3.7-5(3)(7) of the permit), an additional 1.5 tons per acre of straw mulch was spread over the seeded area mostly by mechanical blowers but occasionally by hand spreading. The straw mulch was then sprayed with a tackifier and mulch mixture at about 500 lbs per acre following spreading to retain it on the reseeded slopes. The tackifier and mulch provided a better means for retaining the straw mulch on the reseeded areas than did crimping.

The space between rocks in the riprap channels was filled with soil to provide additional channel stability and to provide soil for vegetation growth in the channel. The channels were then seeded with the same seed mix as the rest of the site. The vegetation growth in the channels will

not be compared to a reference area as a success standard (verbal agreement made at a meeting with UDOGM personnel, 8/31/95).

Ponderosa pine and Douglas fir seedlings were planted within approximately 200 feet on either side of the reclamation channel and on the slopes in the canyon containing CCRD-3 at a rate of 100 Ponderosa pines and 150 Douglas fir seedlings per acre. Bigtooth maple and cottonwood seedlings were spaced every 20 feet along the channel.

### **3.7-5(3)(8) Reference Areas**

The reference areas identified in Section 3.7-5(3)(8) of the permit will be used to evaluate the revegetation success.

### **3.7-5(3)(9) Performance Standards**

The performance standards discussed in Section 3.7-5(3)(9) of the permit text will be used to assess reclamation success prior to bond release.

### **3.7-5(4) As-Built Reclamation Hydrology**

#### **3.7-5(4)(1) General**

Reclamation channels were built to complement the drainage pattern of the surrounding terrain. Culverts used during mine operation to route undisturbed area runoff under the facilities pad area were removed. Runoff from the undisturbed drainages is routed through the regraded site area and into the reclaimed stream channel. The site area has been regraded, roughened, seeded, and mulched to minimize sediment loading to both the undisturbed stream channel below the site area and to the Price River.

#### **3.7-5(4)(2) As-Built Reclamation Channels**

The reclamation channels were built according to the approved reclamation plan. The reclamation channel watershed areas for Crandall Canyon are shown on Exhibit 3.7-17AB. Each

watershed area is labeled according to the mine area (CC=Crandall Canyon) and reclaimed watershed (RWS). The watershed boundaries have been redrawn based on the as-built reclamation topography of the site.

To verify the capacity and stability of the constructed reclamation channels, a peak discharge rate was calculated using the redefined watershed boundaries and the same assumptions as used for the approved design calculations. For example, the curve numbers used for the undisturbed and reclaimed areas were the same as used for the channel designs.

Peak discharge rates used to verify channel capacities and riprap sizes for the intermittent and perennial reclamation channels were calculated based on the 100-year, 6-hour precipitation event of 2.0 inches (Miller et. al, 1973). Permanent ephemeral drainage channels were verified for the 10-year 6-hour storm event of 1.4 inches (Miller et. al, 1973), in accordance with R645-301-742.333. Pursuant to the regulations found in R645-301-742.333, permanent ephemeral drainages have been verified to handle the 10-year, 6-hour storm event. This includes the ditches and swales associated with reclamation road R-1. The operational ditches and culverts along road P-1 and A-1 that are not being affected by reclamation have been designed to handle the 10-year, 24-hour storm event. Hence the operational ditches to remain exceed the regulatory requirements. A summary of the peak flows is presented in Table 3.7-11AB. The supporting calculations are contained in Attachment 1 of this appendix.

The following general approach was used during verification of the reclamation channels:

- ∃ The capacity of the perennial and intermittent reclamation channels was verified based on the 100-year, 6-hour storm and the minimum channel slope.
- ∃ The capacity of the ephemeral reclamation channels was verified based on the 10-year, 6-hour storm and the minimum channel slope.
- ∃ Riprap size was verified based on the 100-year, 6-hour storm and the maximum channel slope for perennial and intermittent channels.
- ∃ Riprap size was verified based on the 10-year, 6-hour storm and the maximum channel slope for ephemeral drainage channels.

- ∃ The roughness coefficient (Manning's "n") for riprapped channels was determined according to the equation (Abt et al., 1981):

$$n = 0.0456(D_{50} * \text{slope})^{0.159}$$

where: n = Manning's roughness coefficient  
D<sub>50</sub> = median riprap diameter (ft)  
Slope = channel slope (ft/ft)

- ∃ For all channels, riprap size verification is based on the methodology presented in U.S. Department of Transportation Hydraulic Engineering Circular No. 11 (1967). The thickness of the riprap for these channels is twice the D<sub>50</sub> of the riprap, or a minimum of 6 inches, as recommended by Barfield et al. (1981).
- ∃ The riprap size was kept constant throughout reclamation channels.
- ∃ The reclamation channels are verified to pass the peak discharge with an approximate freeboard of 0.5 foot or greater with the exception of swale-3 which has a freeboard of 0.37 feet.
- ∃ Filter blanket thickness is equal to one half of the thickness of the riprap, but no less than 6 inches (Barfield, 1981).

Information regarding the operational diversions is presented in Section 3.7-4(2) of the permit. These structures were retained unless replaced during reclamation.

As-built Reclamation channel geometries are summarized in Table 3.7-12AB. Calculations verifying the capacity and stability of the as-built channels are presented in Attachment 1 of this appendix.

### **3.7-5(4)(3) Reclamation Culvert Design**

No culverts were installed as part of reclamation. However, operational culverts along the unchanged portions of the road have been left in place to control road runoff. The location of operational culverts is shown on Exhibits 3.7-7A, 3.7-7B, and 3.7-7C and Exhibit 3.7-6. Only the existing culverts in the facilities area were removed during reclamation activities. Culverts CCC-7 and CCC-8 which were located in the main stream channel were removed, while CCC-24 (Exhibit 3.7-5C) remains. Culverts CCRC-1 and 2 in the approved reclamation plan were replaced with swales to reduce maintenance and eliminate problems associated with culverts.

### **3.7-5(4)(4) Primary Sediment Control (Ponds)**

Both of the operational sedimentation ponds, Pond 014 and Pond 015, were removed during reclamation. The ponds remained in-place as long as possible during reclamation to assist in the sedimentation control efforts. However, once the drainage areas to the ponds were reduced to the point where the pond no longer functioned or the area of the pond needed to be regraded, the ponds were removed.

### **3.7-5(4)(5) Alternative Sediment Control Measures**

Due to the desire to avoid redisturbance of a significant portion of Crandall Canyon in a future phase of reclamation, the operational sedimentation ponds 014, and 015 were removed during reclamation grading operations. Therefore, alternative sediment control measures ("ASCMs") were implemented during reclamation of the site to reduce the sediment yield from the site. These ASCMs included the following practices in varying degrees:

1. Incorporation of hay mulch into the growth media,
2. Deep gouging of the growth media,
3. Seeding the prepared soil,
4. Addition of more mulch following seeding, and
5. Chemically anchoring the final mulch layer.

Based on success at previously reclaimed sites, these methods are effective at controlling sediment yields for the purpose of mine reclamation. The areas where the ASCMs were implemented consist of the topsoil stockpile No. 2 and the facilities area. The areas where ASCMs were used can be seen on Exhibit 3.7-16AB.

Mechanical treatment was performed following the topsoil spreading and mulching of the site area by gouging the soil to a depth of 12" to 18" using the bucket of a track-mounted backhoe.

Gouging loosens the soil, allowing root penetration, increased surface roughness, and increased moisture storage. This allows for quicker vegetation establishment, which reduces erosion. The depressions from the gouging trap sediment dislodged by raindrop impact and overland flow. They also shorten the exposed reaches over which runoff will flow, thereby reducing the sediment carrying capacity of the runoff.

In regard to surface protection measures, the incorporation of hay mulch during surface roughening ensures that the major portion of mulch is incorporated into the soil. The mulch itself significantly reduces the amount of sediment yield from an area (Simons, Li & Associates, 1983, p. 4.30). The mulch also helps retain moisture to allow for seed germination. Hay mulch was incorporated into the soil at a rate of 2 tons/acre.

Permanent plant growth is the best method of controlling erosion from slopes, according to Simons, Li & Associates (1983, p.4.44). After deep gouging, the surface was seeded with grasses, forbs, and shrubs. The seed mix used was the species mix specified in Section 3.7-5(3)(7). Initial seeding was performed during the fall of 2003, with reseeding in 2004 in the vicinity of Shaft No. 1 and 2008 adjacent to Shaft No. 2, as indicated above. Following seeding the site area was mulched again at a rate of 1.5 tons per acre.

Appendix 3.7-7Q presents calculations of sediment yield, using the Universal Soil Loss Equation (USLE), for the steepest reclaimed slopes. The calculations compare the sediment yield with no erosion protection, with natural vegetative cover, and with the proposed vegetative cover, mechanical treatment, and mulching that has been used for sediment and erosion control at the Crandall Canyon site. As noted, implementation of the ASCMs substantially reduces the amount of sediment eroded from the reclaimed areas as compared with natural areas.

Corrections to any weaknesses in the implementation of the sediment control plan will be remedied immediately to prevent future sediment runoff into the main stream channel. Corrective action will be taken when a gully greater than nine inches in depth is created due to lack of vegetation establishment, or when the mulch and seed have been transported by wind or overland flow. Corrective action will consist of regrading of the ground surface only as necessary to fill in gullies caused by erosion, and reseeding and mulching to reestablish vegetation.

### **3.7-5(5) Reclamation Surface and Ground Water Monitoring**

The groundwater and surface water monitoring sites for Crandall Canyon will continue to be monitored quarterly during and after completion of reclamation activities and until bond release is achieved in accordance with the approved plan.

Operational monitoring sites B-26 and B-25 will be retained for monitoring after reclamation. Exhibit 3.7-12AB and 3.7-13AB shows the locations of these monitoring sites. These sites will be monitored for the parameters listed in Table 4.7-2 of the MR&P.

### **3.7-5(6) Reclamation Timetable**

The reclamation of the Crandall Canyon facilities began during the summer of 2003 and was initially completed during the fall of 2003. Broadcast seeding occurred initially during the fall of 2003, with seedlings planted during the fall of 2004. The area around Shaft No. 1 was re-graded and reseeded during the fall of 2005 to repair the settlement of the shaft. The area adjacent to Shaft No. 2 was regraded and reseeded in July 2008. The entire site has been reclaimed to the final configuration. Reclamation monitoring will continue until bond release.

### **3.7-6 Bond Release**

Phase III bond release was authorized for the Crandall Canyon leach field area as shown on Exhibits 3.7-7A and 3.7-7B and supported by information in Appendix 3.7V and Appendix 3.7W. Phase I bond release is being requested for all areas of Crandall Canyon.

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**TABLE 3.7-11 AB**  
**CRANDALL CANYON**  
**AS-BUILT RECLAMATION HYDROLOGY PEAK FLOWS**

<b>DIVERSION</b>	<b>CONTRIBUTING WATERSHEDS (CCRWS-)</b>	<b>AREA (ACRES)</b>	<b>PEAK WATERSHED FLOW (CFS)</b>
CCRD-1	1	41.83	0.43
CCRD-2	2	45.53	0.47
CCRD-3	3	235.06	2.37
CCRD-4	4	43.53	0.45
CCRD-5	5	8.13	0.25
CCRD-6	5 and 6	53.66	2.65
CCRD-7	7 and 9	28.01	0.77
CCRD-8	5	8.13	0.25
CCRD-9	8	10.87	0.34
CCRD-10	7	24.05	0.52
CCRD-11	10	2202.12	133.64
CCRD-12	8	10.87	0.34
CCRD-13	9	3.97	0.25
SWALE-1	7 and 9	28.01	0.77
SWALE-2	8	10.87	0.34
SWALE-3	5 and 6	53.66	2.65

NOTE: All channels are verified to be able to handle the a peak flow at least equal to that resulting from the 10-year, 6-hour storm event. CCRD-10 is the main channel and has been constructed to handle the peak flow resulting from the 100-year, 6-hour storm event. Watershed CCRWS-10 includes watersheds CCRWS-1 thru 9.

TABLE 3.7-12 AB  
CRANDALL CANYON AS-BUILT RECLAMATION DITCH DESIGN SUMMARY

Diversion Ditch (CCRD-)	Design Flow (cfs)	Minimum Conditions			Calculation Results		Min. Design Requirements		
		Bottom Width (ft) <sup>(a)</sup>	Side Slopes (ft)	Max. Bottom Slope (%)	Min. Bottom Slope (%)	Max. Velocity (ft/s)	Max. Flow Depth (ft)	Channel Depth (ft)	Riprap D <sub>50</sub> (in)
1	0.43	3	1.5:1	27.4	14.6	2.33	0.07	1.17	6
2	0.47	4	2.3:1	58.0	7.2	2.53	0.07	1.17	6
3	2.37	10	3:1	13.4	2.4	2.86	0.14	2.0	None
4	0.45	5	2:1	27.0	7.1	2.41	0.05	1.0	None
5	0.25	3	3.4:1	32.1	19.2	1.93	0.05	0.58	6
6	2.65	5	3:1	32.8	5.3	3.69	0.19	1.0	6
7	0.77	4	1.7:1	6.4	2.1	2.08	0.12	1.0	None
8	0.25	0.5	1.6:1	13.8	3.8	3.07	0.17	1.75	None
9	0.34	0.5	2.1:1	6.5	3.7	2.76	0.17	1.17	None
10	0.52	0.50	2.7:1	6.3	1.1	2.63	0.29	0.79	None
11	133.64	8.50	2.2:1	14.1	2.6	10.51	1.59	1.75 <sup>(b)</sup>	12
12	0.34	5	2.75:1	50.0	5.5	1.86	0.06	1.0	12
13	0.25	0.67	1.7:1	9.7	4.1	2.88	0.13	1.25	None
Swale-1	0.77	11	16:1	2.1	2.1	1.05	0.06	3.0	None
Swale-2	0.34	8	12:1	5.5	5.5	1.18	0.03	0.63	None
Swale-3	2.65	6	16:1	5.4	5.4	2.53	0.13	0.5	None

(a) Minimum bottom width measured at minimum depth from top of channel.  
 (b) This minimum depth does not correspond to the same place as the minimum slope. The minimum slope is in an area with a depth of 1.08 ft and a smaller flow since it is upstream of three large drainages.

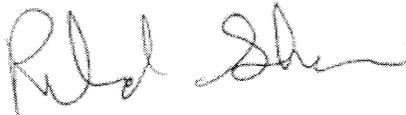
AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF UTAH)

ss.

County of Carbon,)

I, Richard Shaw, on oath, say that I am the Publisher of the Sun Advocate, a twice-weekly newspaper of general circulation, published at Price, State a true copy of which is hereto attached, was published in the full issue of such newspaper for 4 (Four) consecutive issues, and the first publication was on the 2nd day of February, 2010, and that the last publication of such notice was in the issue of such newspaper dated the 23rd day of February 2010.



Richard Shaw - Publisher

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 23rd day of February, 2010.



Notary Public My commission expires January 10, 2011 Residing at Price, Utah

Publication fee, \$ 698.88



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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**APPLICATION FOR PHASE I BOND RELEASE FOR  
GRANDALL CANYON  
PLATEAU MINING CORPORATION  
WILLOW CREEK MINE  
PERMIT C/007/0038, LAST RENEWED ON  
04/24/2006  
CARBON COUNTY, UTAH**

Plateau Mining Corporation, PO Box 30, Helper, UT 84525, has completed Phase I of the approved reclamation plan for the approximately 32.96 acres of land related to the Grandall Canyon portion of the Willow Creek Mine Permit. This Phase I bond release application is based on completing the demolition, backfilling and grading and draining control requirements in accordance with the approved reclamation plan. The initial reclamation work applicable to this bond release application was completed in 2003; subsequent maintenance was completed in 2008.

In accordance with the requirements of R645-301-880, of the State of Utah R645-Coal Mining Rules, notice is hereby given to the general public that Plateau Mining Corporation is applying for partial release of the performance bond posted for this operation.

The surety bond posted for the Willow Creek Mine is \$2,175,144 of which \$1,251,000 is designated for the Grandall Canyon portion of the bond.

Grandall Canyon is located on the Helper, Utah U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute quadrangle map. This reclaimed land is located in Grandall Canyon approximately 5 miles north of Helper, Utah on the following described lands:

- Section 22: Portions of the SE1/4, SW1/4, and SW1/4, SE1/4.
- Section 27: Portions of the NE1/4, NW1/4, and SW1/4, NW1/4.
- Section 28: Portions of the NW1/4, SW1/4, NW1/4, SW1/4, SW1/4, SW1/4, NW1/4, SE1/4, NE1/4, SE1/4, SW1/4, SE1/4, and SE1/4, SE1/4.

The Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining will now evaluate the proposal to determine whether it meets all the criteria of the Permanent Program Performance Standards according to the requirements of the Utah Coal Mining Rules.

Written comments, objections and requests for public hearing or informal conference on this proposal may be addressed to:

Utah Coal Program  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210  
PO Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

Closing date for submission of such comments, objections and requests for public hearing or informal conference on this proposal must be submitted by March 23, 2010.

Published in the Sun Advocate February 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2010.

**ATTACHMENT 5**

Crandall Canyon #2 Shaft Settlement and Temporary Evaporation Pond History

## **Crandall Canyon #2 Shaft Settlement and Temporary Evaporation Pond History**

- Timeline of Project
- Brief Overview
- Permittee Request to Construct Temporary Evaporation Pond
- Evaporation Pond Design
- Evaporation Pond As-Built

### **Timeline of Project**

- Fall of 2003 - initial backfilling of the #2 shaft as part of final reclamation
- November 27, 2006 - discovery that significant settlement of the #2 shaft had occurred
- December 2006 - temporary cover placed over shaft and area fenced for safety
- April 2007 - clean water from the shaft discharged into the Price River
- July 2007 - evaporation pond constructed to hold high TSS water
- July 2007 - finished placing high TSS water in evaporation pond
- July 2007 - #2 shaft backfilled
- July 2008 - evaporation pond reclaimed and area reseeded

### **Brief Overview**

On November 27, 2006 it was discovered that the return air shaft (also known as shaft #2 or the eastern shaft) in Crandall Canyon, which was backfilled in 2003, had settled significantly and an unknown quantity of water was entering the shaft from a horizon estimated to be within the top 100 feet of the shaft opening. The Permittee through a contractor, attempted to refill the shaft with the surrounding material but the water standing in the shaft came to the surface and discharged into Crandall Canyon and eventually into the Price River. In December of 2006, a heavy gauge wire mesh was placed over the open shaft and a 6 foot chain link fence was build around the shaft for safety purposes. It was determined that the best course of action would be to wait until spring of 2007 to further address this situation.

In 2007 the UPDES permit was modified to allow for an outfall in Crandall Canyon (outfall # 016) to discharge clean water from the Crandall Canyon #2 shaft. The Division authorized emergency approval to excavate a temporary holding and evaporation pond to hold the high TSS water from the shaft. This pond was constructed approx. 100 feet to the West of the #2 shaft and the High TSS water was placed into this pond for settlement and evaporation. On July 20, 2007 all of the high TSS water from the shaft had been placed in the pond and the shaft was backfilled. It was determined that when the pond dried up final reclamation of the pond and shaft area would be accomplished.

In July of 2008 the pond constructed near the #2 shaft in Crandall Canyon, which held the water placed in it in July of 2007, had completely evaporated and the final reclamation of this pond was completed and the reclaimed area was reseeded.

## Permittee Request to Construct Temporary Evaporation Pond

*The letter below was sent by email from Dennis Ware (Plateau Mining Corporation) to Wayne Hedberg (DOGM Permit Supervisor) on or about April 24<sup>th</sup> 2007.*

Wayne,

As a follow up to our conversation Tuesday afternoon, I am providing the following information concerning the proposed excavation and utilization of a temporary evaporation and settling basin proposed to be located immediately to the west of the Crandall Canyon #2 shaft site.

Please see map # 3.7-4 in Volume 16 of the Willow Creek Mine Permit for the location of the #2 shaft in Crandall Canyon. Also, please refer to the 4 current photos of the Crandall Canyon shaft area sent to you earlier today.

The proposed temporary evaporation and settling basin would be excavated to a size capable of holding up to 272,000 gallons with a freeboard of 1.5 feet below the current stable surface. The basin will be approximately 130 feet long by 40 feet wide and 9 feet deep.

Plateau views the excavation and use of this proposed temporary evaporation and settling basin to be an emergency and therefore requests the most expeditious evaluation and approval from the Division. Plateau also thanks the Division for its recommendation to utilize an evaporation and settling basin to solve the problem created by the unexpected high TSS water found at the bottom of the shaft.

A brief history of the reclamation and subsequent settling of the shaft is as follows. The #2 shaft was initially backfilled in the fall of 2003 as part of the final reclamation of the Crandall Canyon site. From the fall of 2003 through the fall of 2006 the shaft did not settle at all. In late November of 2006 it was discovered that the shaft had settled an unknown but significant distance creating an immediate safety hazard. A dozer was quickly mobilized and we began pushing the earthen material from the immediate area into the shaft. After several hours of pushing material into the shaft, water that was in the shaft reached the surface and spilled into the Crandall Canyon drainage. Backfilling was halted and a heavy gauge wire mesh was placed over the shaft opening and a secure chain link fence was constructed around the shaft

perimeter. These safety measures were taken in order that we might provide a safe environment while waiting for spring weather to safely reactivate the backfilling operation.

In mid-April a water sample was taken from the shaft and, based on its quality, the Division of Water Quality authorized the discharge of the water in the shaft into the Crandall Canyon drainage. The plan was to discharge (pump) the water from the shaft into the Crandall Canyon drainage and then immediately backfill the shaft.

In mid-April equipment was mobilized, some excavation around the shaft was conducted to gain proper access and a safety platform was constructed over the shaft to facilitate the safe pumping of the water. It was only after the water pipe and pumping system were installed and pumping began that it was discovered that the bottom 100 to 120 feet of water in the shaft was not suitable for discharge into the Crandall Canyon drainage. The problem with this water is high TSS. Since the discovery of the high TSS water Plateau has contemplated using a flocculent to drop out the high suspended solids as well as the idea of pumping and sprinkling the water over the reclaimed land to the west of the shaft. After significant review and discussion it was the Division staff that recommended the use of a temporary evaporation and settling basin.

Plateau views the need for the temporary evaporation and settling basin to be an emergency. By the time the high TSS water was discovered the project was well under way and, based on the prior commitments of manpower and equipment by the general contractor (Nielson Construction) the project must either continue at this time or be delayed for an unknown timeframe not less than three months. With the protective covering over the shaft removed and destroyed and a significant portion of the clean water already pumped from the shaft and the fact that any delay in the project will cause the shaft to refill with water, it is Plateau's opinion that this is an emergency situation.

Plateau is hereby seeking the Divisions approval, on an emergency basis, to build an evaporation and settling basin just to the west of the Crandall Canyon #2 shaft site and pump the high TSS water into this basin. The total

quantity of water to be pumped into this basin will range from approximately 226,000 to 272,000 gallons depending upon where the clean and dirty water separation line is located in the shaft. Plateau plans to leave a minimum of 10 feet of water in the bottom of the shaft; this water left in the shaft will be absorbed by the cement and earthen fill which will be placed in the shaft immediately following the pumping of the water.

The evaporation and settling basin will be constructed immediately to the west of the #2 shaft on the land which was reclaimed and seeded in the fall of 2003 and re-disturbed in December of 2006. The basin will be roughly 130 feet long by 40 feet wide and excavated to a depth of 9 feet. This size could hold 350,000 gallons; however, we will only fill the basin to a level leaving 2 feet of freeboard. With the 2 feet of freeboard the basin will hold 272,000 gallons which is the maximum amount we intend to pump. The excavated material will be stored next to the basin around the shafts protective fence and will be placed back into the basin when the project is complete and the final reclamation of the site is undertaken.

The basin will be kept at least 30 feet away from the #2 shaft and at least 15 feet from the Crandall Canyon drainage channel. During excavation and use and until final surface reclamation straw bales will be used for alternative sediment control. Pete Hess from the Division will be on site later today and we will mutually determine the quantity and location of the straw bales. It is not anticipated that any additional land will be disturbed as a result the excavation of the basin.

During the pumping of the water into the basin a sample of the water will be taken and analyzed for those parameters as to be requested by the Division. Once the high TSS water has been pumped from the shaft into the basin we will immediately begin backfilling the shaft according to the backfilling plan previously provided to the Division. This backfilling process will take anywhere from 11 to 15 days.

It is currently estimated that the pumping of the clean water will be complete by no later than mid-day Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. It is also estimated that it will take 2 days to excavate the basin; therefore, we would very much like to begin the excavation sometime on Wednesday April 25<sup>th</sup>. If the Division concurs, excavation should be complete by

the time the last of the clean water has been discharged into the drainage. The pumping of the high TSS water into the basin is expected to take from 25 to 30 pumping hours. If we get started this Friday afternoon we will be in a position to begin filling the shaft on Monday April 30<sup>th</sup>.

It is estimated that it may take several months for the water to settle and or evaporate. It is estimated that from 7 to 9 inches of solids will remain in the basin after the water has evaporated. After the water has evaporation the material removed during excavation of the basin will be replaced. Additional growth media will be placed and the area will be regraded to the approximate original contour that existed prior to the re-disturbance and the area will be seeded. As built mapping will be provided as part of the Phase I bond release application and an additional section will be added to the reclamation section of the permit explaining the settling of the shaft and the procedure used to dewater and backfill the shaft.

I appreciate your understanding of the situation we are in and your willingness to review this proposal on a timely basis.

Thanks Again,

Dennis Ware

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**Temporary Settling Pond Design**

PMC Crowsdell Canyon  
Settling / Evap Pond Design

Existing ground surface slope (in pond area):

<u>Sta</u>	<u>Distance (ft)</u>	<u>Elw. Diff (ft)</u>	<u>Slope (ft/ft)</u>	
0+00	52	10.4	0.20	} Avg = 0.19
0+50	55	11.0	0.20	
1+00	62	13.4	0.22	
1+50	63	12.6	0.20	
2+00	72	11.2	0.16	
2+50	78	11.0	0.14	

Max. est. quantity of water to be stored:

20' diameter shaft

130' of water w/ high TSS content - assumed condition

$$\text{Volume} = \left(\frac{\pi d^2}{4}\right)(h)$$

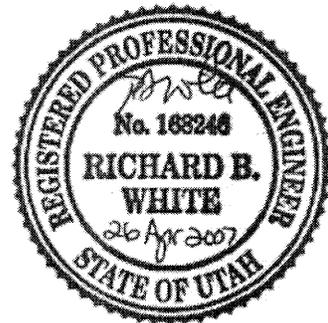
$$= \left[\frac{(\pi)(20)^2}{4}\right](130)$$

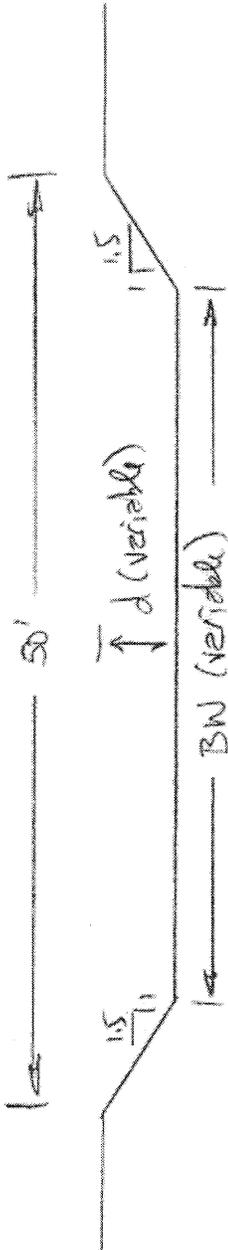
$$= 40,840 \text{ ft}^3 \quad (305,000 \text{ gal})$$

$$= 1510 \text{ yd}^3$$

Pond design criteria:

- Excavate into existing soil
- Min 1.5:1 inside slopes
- 1-2' freeboard
- Assume 50' surface width. Calculate required length.

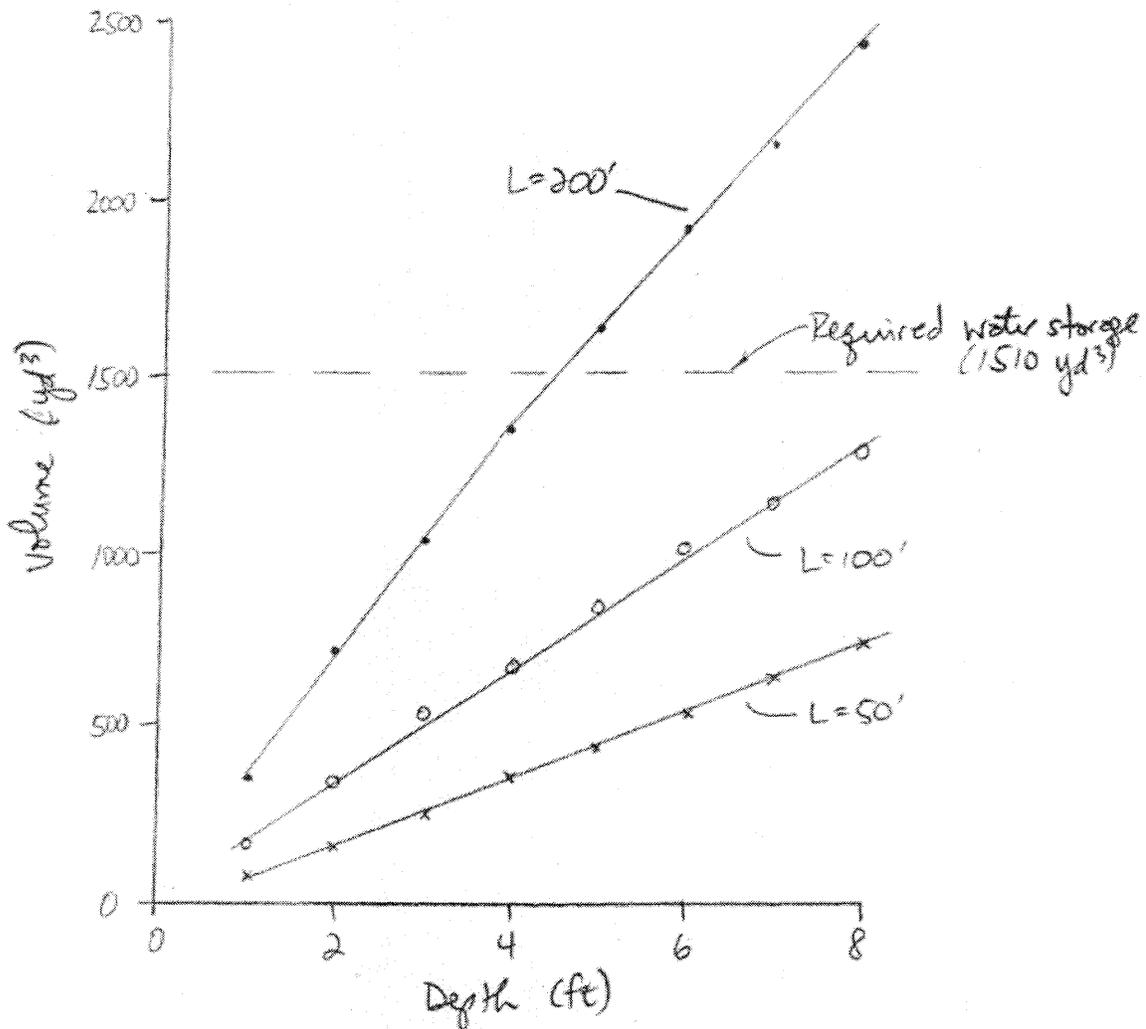




Depth (ft)	BW (ft)	Cumulative Volume		Actual Volumes (Total)					
		Thru Length (ft <sup>3</sup> /ft of L)	Ends (ft <sup>3</sup> )	For L=50'		For L=100'		For L=200'	
				(ft <sup>3</sup> )	(yd <sup>3</sup> )	(ft <sup>3</sup> )	(yd <sup>3</sup> )	(ft <sup>3</sup> )	(yd <sup>3</sup> )
1	47	48.5	75.0	2500	92.6	4925	182	9775	362
2	44	94.0	300.0	5000	185	9700	359	19,100	707
3	41	136.5	675.0	7500	278	14,325	531	27,975	1040
4	38	176.0	1200.0	10,000	370	18,800	696	36,400	1350
5	35	212.5	1875.0	12,500	463	23,125	856	44,375	1640
6	32	246.0	2700.0	15,000	556	27,300	1010	51,900	1920
7	29	276.5	3675.0	17,500	648	31,325	1160	58,975	2180
8	26	304.0	4800.0	20,000	741	35,200	1300	65,600	2430

Note: L = bottom length of pond

Pond Stage-Capacity Curves



At  $L = 200'$ , required water storage occurs at  $d = 4.5'$ .

For pond constructed at 6' depth (i.e., 1.5' freeboard);

$$\text{Total surface area} = (50 \text{ ft}) (200 \text{ ft} + (9)(2) \text{ ft})$$

$$= (50 \text{ ft}) (218 \text{ ft})$$

$$= 10,900 \text{ ft}^2$$

$$= 0.25 \text{ ac}$$

## Final pond dimensions

- Active pond area:

50' wide } Surface @ 6' depth  
220' long }

32' wide } Bottom  
200' long }

- 1.5:1 side slopes
- Extra material cut from south side
- Salvage topsoil
- Install emergency spillway
  - 4' bottom width
  - 2:1 side slopes
  - 0.5-1.0' deep

**Temporary Settling Pond As-Built Map**