

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

January 19, 2010

TO: Internal File

THRU: April Abate, Lead *CCC 1-27-10*

FROM: Joe Helfrich, Biology *JH*

RE: Crandall Canyon Phase I Bond Release Application, Plateau Mining Corporation, Crandall Canyon Mine, C/007/0038, Task # 3453

SUMMARY:

On November 30, 2009 the Division received an application for Phase I Bond Release from Plateau Mining Corporation for the reclamation of the Crandall Canyon shafts and surface facilities. Regrading, backfilling, shaping, contouring and seeding occurred in the Fall of 2003 with some rework on the #2 shaft in 2008. Additional seedlings were planted in the Fall of 2004. The post mining landuse is wildlife, grazing recreation and access to private property. Vegetation success, although not a component of Phase I Bond Release will receive a cursory overview in the context of this document.

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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 postmining land uses for the reclaimed area are wildlife, grazing, recreation and access to private property. The landowner has requested that the access road be left to provide ingress and egress to his property.

Findings:

The information in the application 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: Timing

Regrading, backfilling, shaping, contouring and seeding, with the approved seed mix, occurred in the Fall of 2003 with some rework on the #2 shaft in July of 2008 as noted on exhibit 3.7-16AB. Additional seedlings were planted in the Fall of 2004. Ponderosa Pine and Douglas Fir seedlings were planted at a rate of 100 Ponderosa Pine and 150 Douglas Fir per acre within 200 feet of the reclamation channel.

Revegetation: Mulching and Other Soil Stabilizing Practices

Prior to seeding, hay was incorporated into the topsoil at a rate of 2 tons per acre. After seeding, an additional 1.5 tons per acre of straw mulch was distributed by blower and a tackifier was added to retain the mulch.

Revegetation: Standards For Success

Vegetation in the reclaimed area was sampled in 2008. The summarized data indicated that the species composition and percent cover met or exceed that of the reference areas.

Findings:

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

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The application is recommended for approval.