



EarthFax

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Engineering, Inc.**
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September 30, 2010

Mr. Dennis N. Ware
Plateau Mining Corporation
P.O. Box 592
Orangeville, UT 84537

Subject: Inspection of Willow Creek Preparation Plant Coal Refuse Pile

Dear Dennis:

On September 29, 2010 I conducted an inspection of the Willow Creek Preparation Plant coal refuse pile. The results of that inspection are attached.

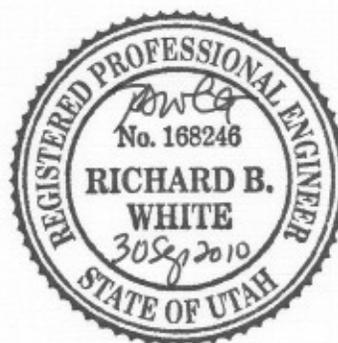
The embankments and reclaimed surface of the refuse pile all appear to be in excellent condition. I did not observe any structural weaknesses or other hazardous conditions associated with the pile. It is my opinion that the pile has been adequately reclaimed and poses no immediate threat to the environment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Richard B. White, P.E.
President

Attachment



*To enter text, click in the box and type your response. If a box already contains an entry select the entry and type the replacement. You can use the **tab** key to move from one field to the next. To select a check box, click in the box or type an **x**.*

GENERAL INFORMATION

Report Date 30 Sep 2010
Permit Number C/007/038
Company Name Plateau Mining Corporation

EXCESS SPOIL PILE OR REFUSE PILE IDENTIFICATION

Pile Name Willow Creek Preparation Plant (Schoolhouse Canyon) Refuse Pile
Pile Number 1211-UT-09-02113-01
MSHA ID Number 42-02113

Inspection Date 29 Sep 2010
Inspected By Richard B. White
Reason for Inspection Quarterly

Attachment to Report? (such as refuse sample analysis) Yes No

Field Evaluation

1. Foundation preparation, including the removal of all organic material and topsoil.

The refuse pile was initially constructed over 30 years ago. To the best of my understanding, topsoil and organic material were removed prior to placement of coal refuse. The refuse pile has been reclaimed and as-built maps and calculations have been submitted.

2. Placement of underdrains and protective filter systems.

To the best of my knowledge, there are no underdrains or protective filters associated with the refuse pile.

3. Installation of final surface drainage systems

The refuse pile has been reclaimed, with pile slopes reduced to 2:1 or flatter. The channels constructed to drain the refuse pile have all been verified to handle the peak flow resulting from the 100-year 6-hour storm event. The refuse pile has been graded to prevent impoundment of water except where the surface has been gouged for erosion protection.

4. Placement and compaction of fill materials

The refuse pile has been reclaimed and no additional material will be added.

5. Final grading and revegetation of fill.

The final grading of the pile was achieved in the spring of 2004 with the final seeding also occurring in the spring of 2004. The coal refuse was covered with approximately 3 feet of soil, which was deep gouged for erosion protection prior to seeding. Vegetation appears to be growing well on all areas of the reclaimed surface.

6. Appearances of instability, structural weakness, and other hazardous conditions

No instability, structural weakness, or other hazardous conditions were apparent during the inspection. The area of rock fall noted during prior inspections as resting in a portion of the primary reclamation channel shows no signs of change (i.e., no erosion or signs of decreased channel capacity due to the presence of the rock fall). I have previously evaluated the hydraulic capacity of the channel, with the rock fall in place, and found the channel capacity to be adequate.

7. Other comments. Describe any changes in the geometry of the Excess Spoil/Refuse Pile structure, instrumentation, average and maximum lifts of materials placed in the pile, elevations of active benches, total and remaining storage capacity of the structure, evidence of fires in the pile and abatement of such fires, volumes of materials placed in the structure during the year, and any other aspect of the structure affecting its stability or function which has occurred during the reporting period

The refuse pile has been reclaimed with all work being completed by the spring of 2004. There has been no coal refuse added to the pile since that time and no changes are anticipated. The cliffs above the refuse pile will likely continue to produce boulders and rocks that fall onto the reclaimed refuse pile. This should not affect the stability of the pile and can be considered as a natural process.

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

I hereby certify that; I am experienced in the construction of earth and rock fills; I am qualified and authorized in the State of Utah to inspect and certify the condition and appearance of earth and rock fills in accordance with the certified and approved designs for this structure; that the fill structure has been maintained in accordance with the approved design and meet or exceed the minimum design requirements under all applicable federal, state, and local regulations; and, that inspections and inspection reports are made by myself and include any appearances of instability, structural weakness or other hazardous conditions of the structure affecting stability.

By Richard B. White, P.E.

Full Name and Title

Signature

Richard B. White

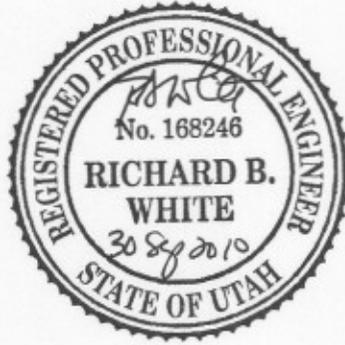
Date

30 Sep 2010

P.E. Number and State 168246 (Utah)

[Cert. Stamp]

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June 29, 2010

Mr. Dennis N. Ware
Plateau Mining Corporation
P.O. Box 592
Orangeville, UT 84537

Subject: Inspection of Willow Creek Preparation Plant Coal Refuse Pile

Dear Dennis:

On June 29, 2010 I conducted an inspection of the Willow Creek Preparation Plant coal refuse pile. The results of that inspection are attached.

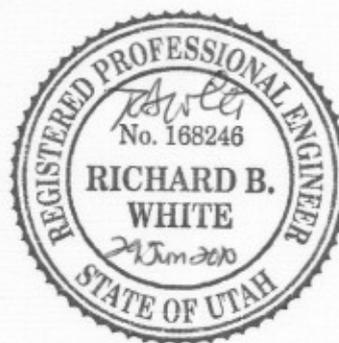
The embankments and reclaimed surface of the refuse pile all appear to be in excellent condition. I did not observe any structural weaknesses or other hazardous conditions associated with the pile. It is my opinion that the pile has been adequately reclaimed and poses no immediate threat to the environment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Richard B. White, P.E.
President

Attachment



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GENERAL INFORMATION

Report Date 29 Jun 2010
Permit Number C/007/038
Company Name Plateau Mining Corporation

EXCESS SPOIL PILE OR REFUSE PILE IDENTIFICATION

Pile Name Willow Creek Preparation Plant (Schoolhouse Canyon) Refuse Pile
Pile Number 1211-UT-09-02113-01
MSHA ID Number 42-02113

Inspection Date 29 Jun 2010
Inspected By Richard B. White
Reason for Inspection Quarterly

Attachment to Report? (such as refuse sample analysis) Yes No

Field Evaluation

1. Foundation preparation, including the removal of all organic material and topsoil.

The refuse pile was initially constructed over 30 years ago. To the best of my understanding, topsoil and organic material were removed prior to placement of coal refuse. The refuse pile has been reclaimed and as-built maps and calculations have been submitted.

2. Placement of underdrains and protective filter systems.

To the best of my knowledge, there are no underdrains or protective filters associated with the refuse pile.

3. Installation of final surface drainage systems

The refuse pile has been reclaimed, with pile slopes reduced to 2:1 or flatter. The channels constructed to drain the refuse pile have all been verified to handle the peak flow resulting from the 100-year 6-hour storm event. The refuse pile has been graded to prevent impoundment of water except where the surface has been gouged for erosion protection.

4. Placement and compaction of fill materials

The refuse pile has been reclaimed and no additional material will be added.

5. Final grading and revegetation of fill.

The final grading of the pile was achieved in the spring of 2004 with the final seeding also occurring in the spring of 2004. The coal refuse was covered with approximately 3 feet of soil, which was deep gouged for erosion protection prior to seeding. Vegetation appears to be growing well on all areas of the reclaimed surface.

6. Appearances of instability, structural weakness, and other hazardous conditions

No instability, structural weakness, or other hazardous conditions were apparent during the inspection. The area of rock fall noted during prior inspections as resting in a portion of the primary reclamation channel shows no signs of change (i.e., no erosion or signs of decreased channel capacity due to the presence of the rock fall). I have previously evaluated the hydraulic capacity of the channel, with the rock fall in place, and found the channel capacity to be adequate.

7. Other comments. Describe any changes in the geometry of the Excess Spoil/Refuse Pile structure, instrumentation, average and maximum lifts of materials placed in the pile, elevations of active benches, total and remaining storage capacity of the structure, evidence of fires in the pile and abatement of such fires, volumes of materials placed in the structure during the year, and any other aspect of the structure affecting its stability or function which has occurred during the reporting period

The refuse pile has been reclaimed with all work being completed by the spring of 2004. There has been no coal refuse added to the pile since that time and no changes are anticipated. The cliffs above the refuse pile will likely continue to produce boulders and rocks that fall onto the reclaimed refuse pile. This should not affect the stability of the pile and can be considered as a natural process.

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By Richard B. White, P.E.
Full Name and Title

Signature Richard B. White

Date 29 Jun 2010

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March 24, 2010

Mr. Dennis N. Ware
Plateau Mining Corporation
P.O. Box 592
Orangeville, UT 84537

Subject: Inspection of Willow Creek Preparation Plant Coal Refuse Pile

Dear Dennis:

On March 24, 2010 I conducted an inspection of the Willow Creek Preparation Plant coal refuse pile. The results of that inspection are attached.

The embankments and reclaimed surface of the refuse pile all appear to be in excellent condition. I did not observe any structural weaknesses or other hazardous conditions associated with the pile. It is my opinion that the pile has been adequately reclaimed and poses no immediate threat to the environment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Richard B. White, P.E.
President

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Report Date 24 Mar 2010
Permit Number C/007/038
Company Name Plateau Mining Corporation

EXCESS SPOIL PILE OR REFUSE PILE IDENTIFICATION

Pile Name Willow Creek Preparation Plant (Schoolhouse Canyon) Refuse Pile
Pile Number 1211-UT-09-02113-01
MSHA ID Number 42-02113

Inspection Date 24 Mar 2010
Inspected By Richard B. White
Reason for Inspection Quarterly

Attachment to Report? (such as refuse sample analysis) Yes No

Field Evaluation

1. Foundation preparation, including the removal of all organic material and topsoil.

The refuse pile was initially constructed over 30 years ago. To the best of my understanding, topsoil and organic material were removed prior to placement of coal refuse. The refuse pile has been reclaimed and as-built maps and calculations have been submitted.

2. Placement of underdrains and protective filter systems.

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4. Placement and compaction of fill materials

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5. Final grading and revegetation of fill.

The final grading of the pile was achieved in the spring of 2004 with the final seeding also occurring in the spring of 2004. The coal refuse was covered with approximately 3 feet of soil, which was deep gouged for erosion protection prior to seeding. Vegetation appears to be growing well on all areas of the reclaimed surface.

The area of rock fall noted during prior inspections as resting in a portion of the primary reclamation channel shows no signs of change (i.e., no erosion or signs of decreased channel capacity due to the presence of the rock fall). I have previously evaluated the hydraulic capacity of the channel, with the rock fall in place, and found the channel capacity to be adequate.

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By Richard B. White, P.E.

Full Name and Title

Signature

Richard B. White

Date

24 Mar 2010

July 3, 2006

Dennis N. Ware
Plateau Mining Corporation
P.O. Box 30
Helper, UT 84526

Subject: Willow Creek Preparation Plant Refuse Pile
Verification of Reclamation Channel Adequacy at Rock Fall

Dear Dennis:

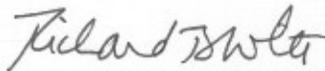
In the late Spring of 2006, several large boulders fell from the cliff located north of the Willow Creek Preparation Plant Refuse Pile. Portions of this natural rock fall landed in and adjacent to the runoff channel that has been constructed across the top of the reclaimed pile (channel CGRD-1). The area of rock fall is located immediately upstream from the confluence of reclamation channel CGRD-4 with CGRD-1.

At your request, I evaluated the adequacy of CGRD-1 to convey runoff through the constricted point under non-erosive conditions. Based on my measurements collected on 1 Jun 2006, the reclaimed at the constriction has a minimum bottom width of 4 feet with side slopes that are approximately vertical. The channel slope through the area of constriction is 0.032 ft/ft. The channel bottom is underlain throughout CGRD-1 by riprap with a median diameter of 12 inches.

Attachment 1 of Exhibit 19, Appendix 3.4N of the Willow Creek Preparation Plant Mining and Reclamation Plan indicates that the peak flow resulting from the 100-year, 6-hour storm for the entire watershed draining watershed CGRWS-1 is 31.19 cubic feet per second. Since the point of constriction is more than 2,000 feet upstream from the mouth of CGRWS-1, this peak flow is conservatively high for the current evaluation. Nonetheless, using this peak flow with a channel width of 4 feet, bottom slope of 0.032 ft/ft, and vertical side slopes, the velocity at peak flow was calculated to be 5.81 ft/s (based on a Manning's roughness coefficient of 0.0395 for riprap with a median diameter of 12 inches), with a flow depth of 1.34 feet (see the attached printout). The allowable velocity for riprap with a median diameter of 12 inches on the channel bottom is 12.6 ft/s (see the attached calculation sheet). Hence, the channel capacity is adequate, even with the constriction.

Please contact me if you need additional information concerning this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard B. White, P.E.
President

Attachments



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Worksheet

Worksheet for Rectangular Channel

Project Description

Worksheet	Waste rock fall
Flow Element	Rectangular Channel
Method	Manning's Formula
Solve For	Channel Depth

Input Data

Mannings Coefficient	0.040
Slope	0.032000 ft/ft
Bottom Width	4.00 ft
Discharge	31.19 cfs

Results

Depth	1.34 ft
Flow Area	5.4 ft ²
Wetted Perimeter	6.68 ft
Top Width	4.00 ft
Critical Depth	1.24 ft
Critical Slope	0.040243 ft/ft
Velocity	5.81 ft/s
Velocity Head	0.53 ft
Specific Energy	1.87 ft
Froude Number	0.88
Flow Type	Subcritical

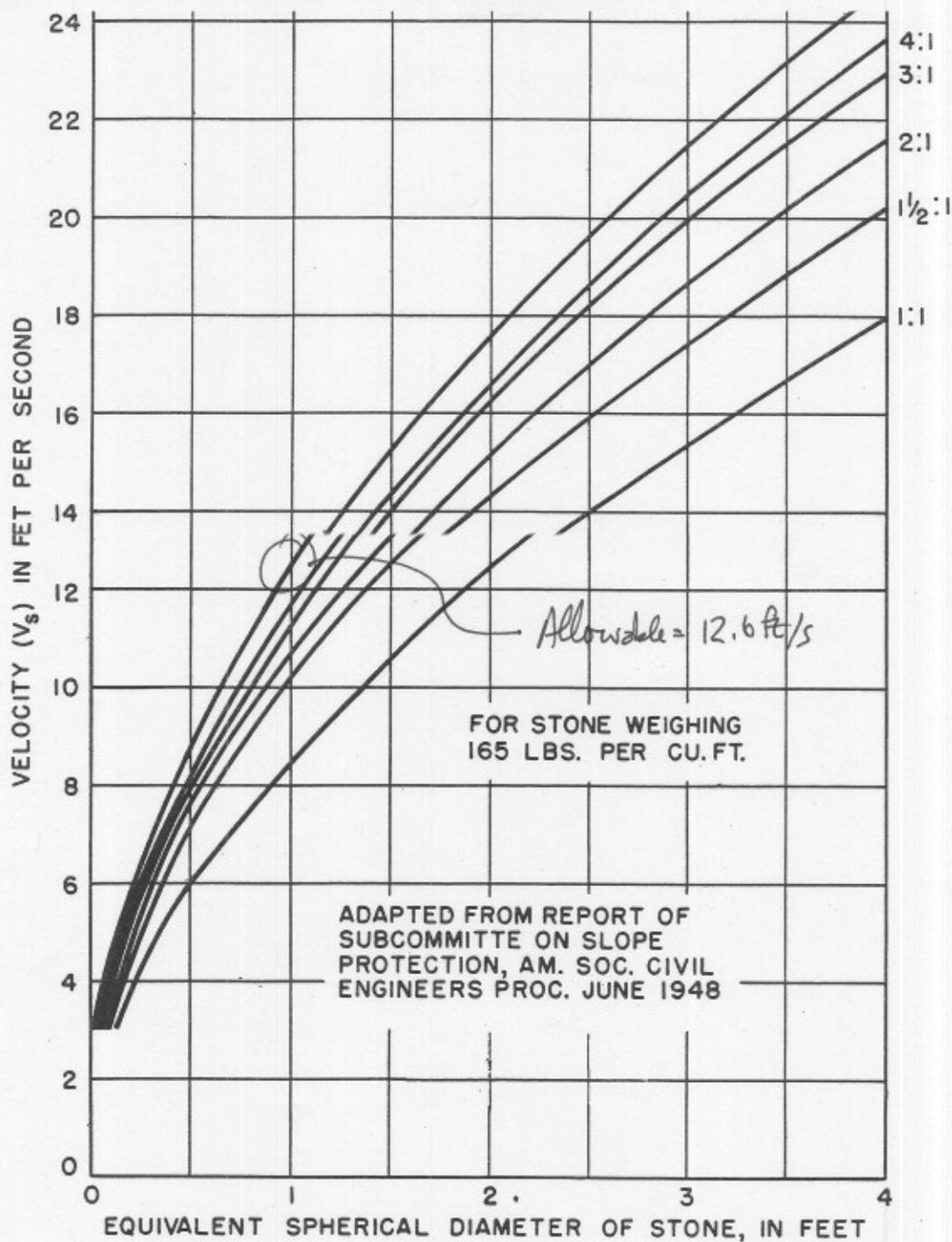


FIG. 2-SIZE OF STONE THAT WILL RESIST DISPLACEMENT FOR VARIOUS VELOCITIES AND SIDE SLOPES

Source: Searcy, J.K. 1978. ¹¹⁻⁶ Use of Riprap for Bank Protection. Hydraulic Engineering Circular No. 11. Federal Highway Administration. Washington, D.C.