

#4134
R

WATER QUALITY MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

December 5, 2012

TO: Internal File

THRU: Steve Christensen, Permit Supervisor *S/C*

FROM: April A. Abate, Environmental Scientist III *AAA*
12/6/2012

RE: 2012 Second Quarter and Termination of Water Monitoring, Plateau Mining Corporation (PMC), Willow Creek Mine, C/007/0038, WQ12-02, Task ID #4134

The Willow Creek Mine is in reclamation. The mine portals 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 Permittee was awarded Phase II Bond Release on 95.40 acres of the Willow Creek permit area on August 31, 2012. The MRP required that all surface water sampling be conducted up through Phase II Bond Release. Based on the permit area achieving Phase II Bond Release, the Permittee sent a letter to the Division dated September 27, 2012 indicating that this second quarter sampling of 2012 represents the final collection of samples. As such, the water monitoring program will be terminated as stipulated by the MRP.

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

Under the reclamation plan, surface water monitoring is required for sites listed on Table 4.7-2 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)

WATER QUALITY MEMO

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 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 June 27, 2012. No flow was measured in Crandall Canyon Creek samples B-25 and B-26 and at B3N, at Willow Creek above the Power Plant.

Wells

There are no operational monitoring wells.

UPDES

The mine has been reclaimed and as a result, there are no currently active Utah Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (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

Surface flow in the upstream sample location B3N was recorded at 10 gallons per minute (gpm), reported as being at one of the lowest levels seen in years. Price River samples reported flow at an average of 6,1036 gpm this quarter. The stream samples flagged as being outside two standard deviations for the cation/anion balance difference. The range reported was a % difference between 3.54-3.83%. The Division accepts a % difference of within 5% as an acceptable cation/anion difference to be considered a valid sample; therefore these samples are considered acceptable.

TDS standards for this reach of the Price River Watershed are set at 1,700 mg/L based on the Utah Administrative Code Rule R317-2. Stream samples during this quarter remain well below this standard ranging between 224-690 mg/L. Dissolved oxygen concentrations averaged 8.3 mg/L, indicative of a healthy level for fish populations.

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

Baseline data were collected at the beginning of mining operations for a two-year period; however, routine 5-year sampling is not specified in MRP. The Division does not require a

WATER QUALITY MEMO

resampling of baseline parameters at bond releases.

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

None at this time. Thank you for your diligence and following the water monitoring requirements for the permit over the years.