



OGMCOAL DNR &lt;ogmcoal@utah.gov&gt;

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## Fwd: Willow Creek

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**Cheryl Parker** <cherylparker@utah.gov>  
To: OGMCOAL DNR <ogmcoal@utah.gov>

Mon, Aug 24, 2015 at 9:25 AM

to file

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Shumate, John** <jshumate@osmre.gov>  
Date: Mon, Aug 24, 2015 at 8:53 AM  
Subject: Willow Creek  
To: [cherylparker@utah.gov](mailto:cherylparker@utah.gov)  
Cc: Daron Haddock <[daronhaddock@utah.gov](mailto:daronhaddock@utah.gov)>

Cheryl-

I have attached the Willow Creek bond release report for your reference. I tried to keep it pretty simple. Once I receive findings from your shop, along with BLM and Wildlife concurrence, I will prepare OSMRE concurrence letter.

Thanks,  
Spencer

—  
**J. Spencer Shumate**  
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U.S. Department of the Interior  
Office of Surface Mining  
Reclamation and Enforcement  
Denver Field Division  
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**Willow Creek Phase III bond release report.doc**  
30K

**Phase III Bond Release Evaluation**  
**Willow Creek Mine, (Permit No. C/007/0038)**  
**8/10/2015**

Participants:

Pracilla Burton, Utah Division of Oil, gas and Mining (DOGM)  
Steve Faulk, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)  
Daron Haddock, Utah Division of Oil, gas and Mining (DOGM)  
Makeda Hanson, Utah Division of Natural Resources (DNR)  
Cheryl Parker, Utah Division of Oil, gas and Mining (DOGM)  
Lisa Reinhart, Utah Division of Oil, gas and Mining (DOGM)  
Spencer Shumate, Office of Surface Mining (OSMRE)  
Dennis Ware, Operator Representative, Plateau Mining Corporation (PMC)

**Background**

OSMRE participated in a phase III bond release inspection for 94.21 acres of disturbance within the Willow Creek Mine permit area. The Willow Creek Mine is an underground coal mine permitted and operated by PMC and is located in Carbon County approximately 4 miles north of the town of Helper, UT. The specific area to which the proposed bond release request applies is T12S R9E portions of Sections 1, 22, 27, 28, 35 and 36. Land for which bond release has been requested is State and privately owned, and the coal was federally owned. OSMRE is a co-payee on the reclamation surety bond. PMC has requested a phase III bond release in the amount of \$478,714. DOGM administers the bond release process in part through the State- Federal Cooperative Agreement found at 30 CFR, Part 906.30.

The morning of the bond release inspection, Mr. Dennis Ware provided a brief overview by orienting the participants to the areas under consideration for bond release and briefing us on the area's mining and reclamation history. The weather was overcast and cool. All areas to be inspected were accessible and visible. The inspection started at approximately 1:00 p.m. We then evaluated the Surface Facilities/Conveyer Corridor (18.35 ac), Preparation Plant, Loadout and Refuse Pile (38.34 ac), Gravel Canyon (5.75 ac), and Crandall Canyon (31.77 ac) reclamation areas.

**Revegetation and Hydrologic Balance**

*All Sites*

At each of the aforementioned reclaimed areas inspected, successful revegetation was indicative. In addition to visual observations, PMC provided vegetation sampling reports that includes the methodology and data (reference areas comparison/technical standards) for years nine and ten, as required by 30 CFR 816.116. Additionally, PMC provided a report to depict sediment yield calculations for each of the areas where phase III bond release is being sought, as required by 30 CFR 816.41. As a result, these reports demonstrate sediment yield to be substantially less after reclamation than before the area was disturbed by mining.

OSMRE also notes that there are no remaining sediment control structures (ponds, silt fences, straw bales or diversions) to be removed and that each of the reclaimed areas support the approved postmining land uses.

**Conclusion**

Reclamation (all phases), in terms of backfilling, grading, revegetation and hydrologic balance are in compliance with the approved reclamation plan at the time of the inspection has achieved successful reclamation to meet phase III bond release criteria.

All participants expressed confidence that this bond release would be approved.

Please address any questions concerning this report to Spencer Shumate, Natural Resources Specialist, [jshumate@osmre.gov](mailto:jshumate@osmre.gov) or (303) 293-5046.