



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
Reclamation and Enforcement
Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050



OCT 14 2015

John Baza, Director
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
P.O. Box 145801
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5801

RE: Phase III Bond Release, Plateau Mining Corporation, Willow Creek Mine, (Permit No. C/007/0038), DOGM Proposed Decision and Findings of Compliance

Dear Mr. Baza:

This letter acknowledges the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), Denver Field Division's (DFD) receipt and review of the above Phase III Bond Release Decision Document prepared by the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining (DOGM) dated September 15, 2015. DFD agrees with the findings and Decision Document and hereby provides OSMRE concurrence for the above bond release action in accordance with 30 CFR 740.15 (d) (3), and 30 CFR 906.30, Article IX, Section 24, of the State-Federal Cooperative Agreement.

DOGM's Proposed Decision documents the applicant's compliance with the Utah approved regulatory program at Rule R645-301-880.

This Phase III bond release request applies to 94.21 acres, specifically:

- 1) Surface Facilities/Conveyer Corridor (18.35 ac)
- 2) Preparation Plant, Loadout and Refuse Pile (38.34 ac)
- 3) Gravel Canyon (5.75 ac)
- 4) Crandall Canyon (31.77 ac)

OSMRE finds that Plateau Mining Corporation has met or exceeded the requirements for Phase III bond release on these 94.21 acres of land described above. DOGM currently holds a performance bond in the amount of \$489,166.00. Plateau Mining Corporation is requesting \$478,714.00 reduction in this bond. DOGM has determined that the reclamation is complete and there is no need to hold any more bonds for these lands. By letters dated August 28 and September 10, 2015, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) concurred with this finding. OSMRE interprets the BLM's concurrence to mean that Plateau Mining Corporation's Willow Creek Mine is in compliance with all applicable BLM coal lease stipulations. OSMRE also concurs with DOGM's decision.

Thank you and your staff for coordinating this Federal mine bond release action through the OSMRE-DFD. Please direct any questions concerning this action to Spencer Shumate, Natural Resources Specialist, at jshumate@osmre.gov or (303) 293-5046.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Howard E. Strand". The signature is fluid and cursive.

for Alan Boehms, Manager
Denver Field Branch

Cc: Daron Haddock, DOGM
Dennis Ware, Castle Gate Holding Company
