



United States Department of the Interior



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

January 29, 2019

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

RE: Final Phase III Bond Release, Plateau Mining, LLC, Willow Creek Mine, Permit No. C/007/0038 (Task # 5773), OSMRE Concurrence on Proposed Decision and Findings of Compliance

Dear Mr. Baza,

This letter acknowledges the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), Denver Field Branch's (DFB) receipt and review of the Phase III Bond Release Decision Document prepared by the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM) dated December 7, 2018. DFB agrees with the proposed Findings and Decision Document and hereby provides OSMRE concurrence for the above bond release action in accordance with 30 C.F.R. § 740.15(d)(3) and Utah's State-Federal Cooperative Agreement at 30 C.F.R. § 944.30, Article IX, Section (B).

The Plateau Mining, LLC application seeks final Phase III bond release for the completed reclamation of the 1.19 acres at the Willow Creek Mine and thereby requests the release of the remaining posted bond, in the amount of \$10,452, held by DOGM. DOGM's proposed Findings and Decision Document provides ample evidence to indicate the applicant's compliance with the approved Utah regulatory program at Rule R645-301-880.330. OSMRE agrees with DOGM's recommendation regarding the approval for final bond release and finds that Plateau Mining, LLC has met or exceeded the requirements for Phase III bond release pursuant to the Utah coal mining regulatory program on these 1.19 acres of land described above.

After reviewing the site during the bond release inspection, conducted on October 30, 2018, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) provided DOGM with a letter dated November 1, 2018, concurring with the final release of the performance bond at the Willow Creek Mine. BLM's letter notes that the site has been well-reclaimed, with successful revegetation. BLM forwarded its written concurrence to DFB via email on January 28, 2019. DFB interprets BLM's concurrence to mean that Plateau Mining, LLC is in compliance with all applicable BLM mineral lease stipulations.

Thank you and your staff for coordinating this bond release action through DFB. Please direct any questions concerning this action to Alexis Long, Environmental Protection Specialist by email at along1@osmre.gov or by telephone at (303) 293-5039.

Sincerely,



Howard E. Strand, Manager
Denver Field Branch

C: Steve Christensen, DOGM
Dennis Ware, Plateau Mining, LLC