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**CYPRUS PLATEAU
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January 29, 1996

Mr. Paul Baker
Utah Department of Natural Resources
Division of Oil Gas and Mining
355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt lake City, Utah 84180-1203

96B

Dear Mr. Baker,

RE: PERMIT AMENDMENT WILLOW CREEK COAL WASTE REMOVAL

JAN 30 1996

ACT/007/004
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The permit amendment area for the December 27, 1995 amendment (your approval date Dec. 28, 1995) was changed in the field to allow for identification of the in-place coal waste material. We have found considerably more coal waste than originally planned, and more than the Division AML personnel indicated existed at the site. To allow removal of this material while equipment is on site we are proposing to amend the area as shown on the attached maps.

As can be seen on Exhibit 12-5-1 enclosed the additional area needed is small (1.21 acres). This area includes the previous Dec. 1995 amendment area. The area will be excavated by removing the topsoil and placing it on the Willow Creek Mine topsoil stockpile. The disturbed area will be excavated so that the entire area drains into the portal area (Pond 1) with no disturbed flow running off site.

Runoff from the new cut area will flow into the portal cut which has become Pond 1. The drainage area as shown on Exhibit 12-7-3 enclosed will contain 13.41 acres of which 1.21 acres is added with this amendment (including the December, 1995 amendment area). The additional 1.21 acres will add approximately 0.125 acre feet of runoff from a 25 yr 24 hour event using the data from Appendix 12-7-2 (see calculations attached). This small amount of additional runoff will comprise only 8.76% of the capacity of Pond 1 after the coal waste has been removed.

The area of this amendment has been covered by all environmental baseline work for the Willow Creek Mine Permit application, and will be included within the Willow Creek Mine disturbed area.

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In addition, we have discussed the possibility of storing the excess cut soils and rock materials from the pad area to expose the coal seam on the bank adjacent to the portal area as shown on the attached map Exhibit 12-5-1. You indicated that you had no concerns with this since the area is included within the existing permit area boundary. Since we will need to fill the hole created by removal of the additional coal waste material in the substation area we would like to use the soils and rock cut material as fill for the substation in the area shown on Exhibit 12-5-1. This amendment includes both of these areas.

We have taken soils samples of the cut material as directed. The samples are being analyzed for topsoil suitability parameters to evaluate whether the coal waste that was on top of the area influenced the quality of the soils and rock material. Results of this testing will be forwarded to the Division as soon as it is received from the laboratory.

We need a decision on this amendment as soon as possible to allow the work to be done under this phase of the project since we are wrapping up the coal waste removal project.

Respectfully,



Ben Grimes
Sr. Staff Project Engineer

Attachments

File: WCENV 2.5.2.12.1
Chron: BG960117