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May 3, 1989

TO: Richard V. Smith, Acting Permit Supervisor
FROM: Henry Sauer, Reclamation Soils Specialist *HS*
RE: Mid-Term Stipulations 817.71-.74, Acid- and Toxic-Forming Materials, Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation, Starpoint Mine ACT/007/006, Folder No. 2, Carbon County, Utah

Synopsis

Plateau Mining Corporation (PMC) has continually solicited the Division's response concerning issues relative to Stipulation 817.71-.74, Disposal of Excess Spoil and Underground Development Waste.

Analysis

To date, the Division has not received conclusive evidence to determine that the refuse material produced at the Starpoint Mine is non-acid and non-toxic forming.

PMC has submitted plans (letter to DOGM March 8, 1989) for a baseline sampling program which would involve the collection and analyses of plant and soil/refuse material within the revegetation test plots to determine the potential correlations between plant-soil Selenium concentrations. The Division encourages such investigations and approves of the sample program methodology. However, the baseline sampling program should be conducted periodically up to the time of final reclamation. At that time, current technology and a complete understanding of the subject may be asserted.

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Recommendations

1. As stated in previous memos to file (December 28, 1987, February 3, 1988, and September 29, 1988) the operator must commit to conducting a refuse pile monitoring program just prior to final reclamation. The monitoring plan shall include a discussion of the potential for, and mitigation of, water quality impacts and revegetation problems attendant to the refuse pile.

To address the concerns regarding acid- and/or toxic-forming materials in the PMC refuse pile at the time of final reclamation, a plan shall be submitted to include:

- A. A schedule of refuse monitoring (to be conducted at least two years prior to abandonment of the refuse pile).
- B. Sample spacing or grid spacing.
- C. Depth intervals at each sample point.
- D. Constituents to be analyzed (at a minimum: Selenium, Acid-Base Potential [to include Pyritic-Sulfur percent and Organic-Sulfur percent], Electrical Conductivity, Boron, and pH).
- E. Mitigation measures to be taken if acid-forming and/or toxic-forming materials are encountered as required under UMC 817.103.

2. The baseline sampling program should include plans to conduct soil/refuse-plant analyses periodically (i.e. 5 years) up to the time of final reclamation.

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