



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Moab District
Price River Resource Area
125 South 600 West
P. O. Box 7004
Price, Utah 84501

FEB 14 1996

3482
SL-031286
U-64263
(UT-066)

CERTIFIED MAIL--Return Receipt Requested
Certification No. 254 448 954

FEB 12 1996

Mr. Tom Hurst
Mining Engineer
Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation
P. O. Drawer PMC
Price, Utah 84501

Re: Resource Recovery and Protection Plan (R2P2) Modification, Early Recovery of 3rd Left Longwall Panel, Starpoint #2 Mine

*Route to Adrian and
Joe Dean file
#27/005/006
#2*

Dear Mr. Hurst:

On December 13, 1995, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received from Cyprus Plateau, a notice that the 3rd Left longwall panel was shortened by 180 feet to allow the safe extraction of the machinery due to adverse ground conditions. The subject area is in the Wattis Seam on Federal coal lease U-64263.

Cyprus states poor roof conditions along the margins of a sandstone channel were encountered that forced the early extraction of the longwall at crosscut 7 instead of crosscut 5 in the 3rd Left headgate entries. Loose roof rock associated with the channel margin extended along the headgate entries and a large cave buried the stage loader. These unsafe conditions necessitated the move of the longwall. Cyprus, of their own accord, notified BLM personnel that they had moved the longwall without first notifying the BLM. According to Cyprus, this was an oversight, as key officials who deal regularly with the BLM were absent. The letter for formal approval was sent later.

The area was inspected by BLM personnel on December 8, 1995. Although the longwall machinery was withdrawn from the 3rd Left headgate entries, access up the two entries was available. Typical roof conditions associated with the margins of sandstone channels were observed. Evidence of major roof falls were noted from crosscut 5 up to the extraction room at crosscut 7. The initial roof supports did not hold the roof rock along this channel margin causing hazardous roof conditions.

Federal regulations at 43 CFR 3484.1 (c) are specific in the requirement that prior approval from the authorized officer is required before abandonment of Federal coal. Cyprus Plateau

failed to receive approval to pull the 3rd Left longwall out at crosscut 7. Since Cyprus notified the BLM of this failure and the conditions BLM witnessed justified the shortening of the panel, no further action will be taken.

The BLM recognizes that conditions can change dramatically in an underground coal mine which may require immediate decisions. However, the regulations are quite clear that any change to the mining plan that would affect the recovery of Federal coal needs prior approval from the authorized officer of the BLM. This office will make every effort to be available and make prompt decisions when needed. Should further mine plan changes occur without prior approval, BLM will take enforcement action.

The BLM has determined that the proposed modification to the R2P2 is in compliance with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, the regulations at 43 CFR 3480, the lease terms and conditions, and will achieve maximum economic recovery of the Federal coal. Cyprus's decision to extract the longwall at crosscut 7 from the 3rd Left panel was unauthorized at the time, but BLM agrees with the action. A copy of the approved mine map is enclosed.

If you have any questions, please contact Stephen Falk or George Tetrault at 637-4584.

Sincerely,

MARK E. BAILEY

Area Manager

Enclosure
Approved Mine Map

cc: UT-921, SD, Utah (w/encl.)
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
355 West North Temple Street
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203 (w/encl.)

MINOR MODIFICATION TO
MINING PLAN APPROVED BY
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Recommended By:

Stephen W. Fall 2/12/96
Mining Engineering (Date)

Approved By:
Mark E. Bailey 2/12/96
Area Manager (Date)

