



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 - 5 1996

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

CERTIFIED MAIL--Return Receipt Requested
Certification No. 254 448 953

FEB - 1 1996

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

*Route to ~~Starpoint~~ Starpoint
file ACT 1005/1006 #2*

Re: Resource Recovery and Protection Plan (R2P2) Modification, Bleeder Entries and Pillars for Longwall Panels, Starpoint #2 Mine

Dear Mr. Hurst:

On December 11, 1995, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received from Cyprus Plateau, a request to modify the design of the bleeder entries and pillars for longwall panels 35 through 38 off the 3rd North Mains. The subject area is in the Wattis Seam on Federal coal lease U-64263.

Cyprus has proposed to mine four entries at the end of longwall panels to serve as bleeder and longwall set-up entries. A barrier pillar of between 100 to 150 feet would be left between the #2 and #3 entries. Previous bleeder/set-up room layout were three or four entries with no barrier pillar in between entries. The west projections of the 6th and 7th Left panels were submitted to align with the projected fault and the western jog of the lease boundary. In addition, Cyprus has requested a waiver to the 50-foot property barrier requirement for all the remaining areas, including the southern boundary of lease U-64263 formed by the western jog of the boundary.

Cyprus requests the above changes as a result of deterioration of the bleeder entries for longwall panels 31 through 34. The bleeder entries are not safely travelable and according to the Mine Safety and Health Administration, the current bleeder design is unacceptable. The proposed plan has a larger barrier pillar that is designed for greater support for the bleeder entries.

A mine inspection was conducted on December 8, 1995, by personnel from this office. The 5th Left gate entries and the bleeder entries behind the current longwall panels were visited and conditions verified. Major roof control problems associated with abutment pressures

acting on loose and fractured roof rock were noted. A few areas were endangered off due to roof falls. Roof fractures parallel and perpendicular to the west fault were observed. Also, the immediate roof rock in the area was layered shale rock, mostly associated with sandstone channel margins that fell readily.

From these observations, it is readily apparent that the current bleeder entry configuration is not providing the necessary stability. The geologic conditions are more adverse than the southern longwall block that used this bleeder configuration successfully. The added barrier pillar should give additional protection to the immediate roof rock from longwall abutment pressures. The barrier pillar size meets accepted design criteria. In addition, the panel and bleeder projections for longwall panels 35 through 38 are laid out in an acceptable location with regards to coal conservation and the lease boundary. We also agree with your proposal to mine to the limits of the fault or the lease boundary, as conditions allow, without a 50-foot property barrier pillar since there is no mining access from the other side of the fault.

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 bleeder design is approved with authorization of 100-foot barrier pillars. If the barrier pillars need to be increased to provide the required stability and safety, please notify this office. In addition, a general modification is granted to recover all coal up to the fault or up to the boundary, without a 50-foot property barrier. 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.)

PANEL LENGTH TO THE LIMITS OF MINING

8TH LEFT

LW PANEL 37

7TH LEFT

LW PANEL 36

6TH LEFT

LW PANEL 35

FCL UTU-64263

50-FOOT PROPERTY BARRIER WAIVED

PERMIT CHANGE APPROVAL
MODIFICATION APPROVAL.

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

Stephen W. Felt 2/1/96
Mining Engineering (Date)

Approved By:
Mark E. Bailey 2/1/96
Area Manager (Date)

10 11
15 14

5TH LEFT

LW PANEL 34

