



**State of Utah**  
 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
 DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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April 10, 1996

TO: File #2

THRU: Joe Helfrich, Permit Supervisor *JH*

FROM: Steven M. Johnson, Reclamation Hydrologist *SMJ*

RE: Exploration, Star Point Mine, Cyprus Plateau Mining Company, ACT/007/006-96A, File #2, Carbon County, Utah

**SUMMARY:**

Cyprus Plateau Mining Company (CMPC) has requested a change to their exploration permit to add four new drill holes in the Willow Creek area. The request has been submitted to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Division has been asked to supply comment to the BLM. This memorandum supplies the hydrologic comments for the submittal.

**HYDROLOGIC INFORMATION**

Regulatory Reference: R645-202-235, -301-731.600, -301-742.412

**Analysis:**

Two drill pads, sites P96-25-3 and P9630-3, will be located in the bottom of the stream channels according to pages 6 and 7. The other drill pads, sites P96-30-4 and P96-30-5, will be located near ridges. The last paragraph on page 11 says that contamination of surface waters by drilling materials is low because of location. Further, berms, bales and silt fences will be used as precautionary measures to prevent contamination of surface water by drilling materials.

Sites P96-30-4 and P96-30-5 are safely located away from stream flow, but P96-25-3 and P96-30-3 are not. Drilling in these locations could easily contaminate stream flow if drilling is done when water is present in the channels. However, both of these channels are ephemeral in nature and seldom contain any flow. If drilling is completed in a time when there is not flow in the channels and drilling materials are stored above the channels' bank full flow depths, no contamination of surface water should occur.



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**Findings:**

CPMC must drill sites P96-25-3 and P96-30-3 when no flow is present in the respective channels. Further, all drilling materials must be stored outside of the channel bottoms.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The amendment to CPMC's exploration permit should be approved with the following stipulation:

CPMC must drill sites P96-25-3 and P96-30-3 when no flow is present in the respective channels and they must store all drilling materials outside of the channel bottoms.

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