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

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January 31, 1997

John Pappas, Sr. Environmental Engineer  
Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation  
P. O. Drawer PMC  
Price, Utah 84501

Re: Cooperative Selenium Research Study (WSU, CPMC, & DOGM), Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation, Star Point Mine, ACT/007/006, File #2, Carbon County, Utah

Dear Mr. Pappas:

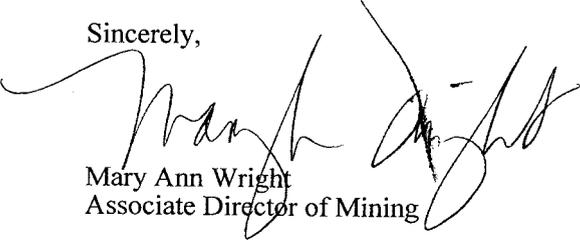
This letter documents the Division's interest in participating in the cooperative selenium research study between CPMC and Weber State University. DOGM's involvement will focus on evaluating research applications in accordance with SMCRA regulations, providing technical assistance, evaluating experimental design, and interpreting data.

The ubiquitous presence of selenium found in overburden and coal waste makes this research highly pertinent and relevant for protecting the environment from the deleterious effects of selenium. Selenium solubilization, leaching and toxicity are some of the main environmental concerns in dealing with overburden and coal refuse. DOGM's coal regulatory program relies heavily upon current scientific understanding for the establishment, support and implementation of our selenium guidelines. This cooperative project will benefit DOGM in assessing and revising our current selenium guidelines. Utah's coal mining industry will benefit through better and more cost effective reclamation that has accounted for selenium issues in the design. Utah's public will benefit through the establishment of better reclamation.

The main risk for not pursuing this research is the delayed understanding of selenium chemistry in coal refuse materials. The repercussion will be the continued enforcement of the four feet minimum regulatory requirement of cover over selenium contaminated refuse material.

We look forward to a positive response for continued efforts to establish this cooperative effort for resolving selenium contamination problems in coal refuse. Please direct inquiries or comments about this research study to Robert Davidson at (801) 538-5264.

Sincerely,

  
Mary Ann Wright  
Associate Director of Mining

cc: R. Davidson  
D. Haddock  
S. White

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