

0040



**CYPRUS PLATEAU
MINING CORPORATION**
A Cyprus Amax Company

Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation
Post Office Drawer PMC
Price, Utah 84501
(801) 637-2875

April 14, 1998

Mr. Gayle Smith
Division of Water Quality
288 North 1460 West
P.O. Box 144870
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870

*COAL-
FILE FOLDER #2
ACT/007/006*

RE: Notification of Effluent Limitation Exceedence for TDS and TSS, Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation, Star Point Mine, Permit No. UT0023736

Dear Mr. Smith:

As required by our Permit, Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation (CPMC) is herewith notifying the Division that Outfall 008 had a discharge on March 25, 1998, which exceeded its effluent limitations for TSS (147 ppm) and TDS (3312 ppm). Additionally, Outfall 006 barely exceeded its 30-day average effluent limitation for TSS (26 ppm). With the flows from outfalls 008 and 006 being minimal, 0.022 CFS and 0.008 CFS, respectively, the one ton per day effluent limitation for TDS was not exceeded. CPMC became aware of the exceedences on April 10, with verbal notification to your voice mail on April 13.

At the time this sample was taken, all the runoff entering into Pond 008 (Outfall 008) was from the undisturbed runoff conveyed under the disturbed area and into the pond. There was not any mixing of disturbed runoff with undisturbed. Runoff from the undisturbed naturally carries high TDS and TSS due of its contact with the Mancos Shale.

When the sample was taken on March 25, CPMC was concerned that an exceedence for TDS and TSS was possible, thereby initiating a pumping program whereby water contained in the pond was pumped into a water truck to minimize the amount of discharge. Water removed from this pond was then hauled and discharged into one of CPMC's other ponds that had sufficient holding capacity.

The intent of this pumping program was to: first minimize the amount of discharge; and secondly drain-down the water contained within the sediment, thereby expediting the drying time and accessibility into the pond for sediment removal operations.

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Pond 008 is located where egress requires the use of four-wheel drive. Because of this, pond cleaning becomes impossible when weather patterns continually bring precipitation to the area. Efforts were made in January to stockpile as much sediment as possible within the pond and open up additional pooling areas, but because of the soupy nature of the sediment this activity was marginally successful.

Access into the pond was precluded because the ice was not thick enough to support the weight of the trackhoe and the material that was accessible from the embankment was so wet that it would just liquify and flow back into the pond. The grade out of the pond area is so steep that even if CPMC was able to get dump trucks into the area the material would flow out over the bed of the dump trucks as they climbed out of the area, thereby causing additional concerns.

Last year's above normal precipitation made it impossible to identify the sediment level within the pond, because it always contained water. The only way we were able to tell where the sediment level was, was by the use of an ice auger. CPMC augered through the ice in January and at that time the sediment level was identified and an outside contractor hired to attempt the stockpiling of sediment within the pond area.

To continue minimizing the discharge from the pond, CPMC will continue with its dewatering program and investigate additional options whereby the sediment can be removed when ingress and egress are possible. One option that is being considered, is to load sediment into the dump trucks and then back out up the steep grade. This will be a fit, in and of itself, even with the best of conditions.

Even with the dewatering activities, some water continues to discharge as evident when I took another discharge sample on April 13. This sample also appears to exceed effluent limitations, but is a lot cleaner than the undisturbed flowing into the pond, which also was sampled. Flow from Pond 008 during this sampling was only 0.006 CFS. Now if we could just get mother nature to fall back into her normal weather pattern.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (435) 472-4741.

Sincerely,



Johnny Pappas
Sr. Environmental Engineer