



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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March 5, 1998

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

Re: Requirement to Correct Plan Deficiencies Associated with Highwall Elimination, Cyprus Plateau Mining Corp., Star Point Mine, ACT/007/006, Folder #3, Carbon County, Utah

Dear Mr. Pappas:

During the last two years one of the main topics of oversight has been Highwall Elimination and Retention as a Part of Approximate Original Contour Restoration. The joint DOGM/OSM oversight team has evaluated this element under the primary oversight objective of determining whether minesite reclamation is successful. Surveys were sent to the mine operators asking for information on highwalls, mine plans were reviewed, field visits were conducted and an inventory compiled which identified those mine sites that had permit deficiencies associated with highwall reclamation.

In the highwalls inventory, the team found that 7 of the 35 mines (20 percent) in Utah have permit deficiencies relating to highwall reclamation. These deficiencies include (1) those situations where the permits show parts of post May 3, 1978, highwalls that will be retained contrary to the requirements of Utah's program, and (2) other situations where the permits are not clear as to what extent pre and post May 3, 1978, highwalls will be eliminated.

The Star Point Mine was one of those identified as having permit deficiencies. This was previously discussed with you and Cyprus responded by revising the reclamation plan to address the elimination of highwalls as a function of Approximate Original Contour Restoration. We appreciate your help in correcting the deficiencies. The Division is currently reviewing your submittal and plan on having the our review of highwalls at the Star Point Mine completed by July of this year.

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For your information we are enclosing a copy of the Division's Directive on Approximate Original Contour Requirements. We will inform you of our review results as quickly as we can, especially if there is a need for any additional information. Thank you again for your help on this issue. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,



Daron R. Haddock  
Permit Supervisor

jb  
Enclosure: Division's Directions on ... Contour Requirements  
cc: Jim Fulton, OSM, w/o  
Mary Ann Wright, DOGM, w/o  
Joe Helfrich, DOGM, w/o  
Price Field Office, w/o  
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