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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

Lowell P. Braxton
Division Director

June 14, 1999

To: File

Thru: Joe Helfrich, Permit Supervisor, Compliance

From: Stephen J. Demczak, Reclamation Specialist

RE: Citizen Complaint, Allegation of Pumping Waste Oil into Diversion that Goes into a Pond, Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation, Star Point Mine, ACT/007/006, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

ALLEGATION

A citizen, who chose not to give their name, called the Price Field Office at 4:40 P.M. on Wednesday, June 9, 1999. He stated that Plateau Mining was pumping waste oil into a diversion which discharges into a clear water pond. The waste oil tank is located behind the surface shop.

INVESTIGATION

I called Johnny Pappas (environmental engineer) for Cyprus Plateau at the Willow Creek Mine and left a message giving the circumstances and to meet me at Plateau. A similar message was also left at his personal home phone. At 5:25 P.M., I arrived at Plateau Mine behind the surface shop building. The surface property was absent of personnel. The diversion behind the waste oil tank was wet all the way to the pond. Above the waste oil tank, the diversion was dry. The entire diversion from the waste oil tank and to the pond was walked and no trace of oil was found in the diversion, culverts, or pond. The pond did not even have an oil sheen on the top of the water. The culvert had standing water. This water had **no** petroleum smell.

I happened to meet Johnny Pappas on the County Road at approximately 6:15 P.M. after making my investigation. He was with another Cyprus employee doing a project. He was unaware of the phone calls I had made to him earlier. We went to the waste oil tank behind the shop. Johnny reported to me that he ordered workers to pump the rain water out of the concrete containment berm. This was due to the water build-up caused by the recent rain storms. Looking at the concrete wall, one could see fresh water marks two feet above the water.

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CONCLUSION

There were no signs of oil in the diversion, culverts, or in the pond. With the information given by Johnny Pappas, it makes sense for the diversions to be wet. Also, the fresh water marks back up the information given. Therefore, I see no environmental harm nor any violations of the R645 Coal Rules.

sd
cc: Johnny Pappas, Plateau, Helper