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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

INSPECTION REPORT

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801-538-7223 (TDD)

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor
Lowell P. Braxton
Division Director

Partial: XXX Complete: Exploration:

Inspection Date & Time: 12/22/98 / 8:00a.m.-1:30p.m.

Date of Last Inspection: 11/6 & 13/98

Mine Name: Willow Creek Mine County: Carbon Permit Number: ACT/007/038

Permittee and/or Operator's Name: Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation

Business Address: 847 Northwest Highway 191, Helper, Utah 84526

Type of Mining Activity: Underground XXX Surface Prep. Plant Other

Company Official(s): Johnny Pappas

State Officials(s): Peter Hess, Mike Herkimer Federal Official(s):

Weather Conditions: Clear, Cold, 1° F

Existing Acreage: Permitted- 14,670 Disturbed- 206.7 Regraded- Seeded- Bonded- 206.7

Increased/Decreased: Permitted- Disturbed- Regraded- Seeded- Bonded-

Status: Exploration/ XXX Active/ Inactive/ Temporary Cessation/ Bond Forfeiture

Reclamation (Phase I/ Phase II/ Final Bond Release/ Liability Year)

REVIEW OF PERMIT, PERFORMANCE STANDARDS & PERMIT CONDITION REQUIREMENTS

Instructions

- Substantiate the elements on this inspection by checking the appropriate performance standard.
 - For complete inspections provide narrative justification for any elements not fully inspected unless element is not appropriate to the site, in which case check N/A.
 - For partial inspections check only the elements evaluated.
- Document any noncompliance situation by referencing the NOV issued at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
- Reference any narratives written in conjunction with this inspection at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
- Provide a brief status report for all pending enforcement actions, permit conditions, Division Orders, and amendments.

	EVALUATED	N/A	COMMENTS	NOV/ENF
1. PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. SIGNS AND MARKERS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. TOPSOIL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE:				
a. DIVERSIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. WATER MONITORING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. EXPLOSIVES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. DISPOSAL OF EXCESS SPOIL/FILLS/BENCHES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. NONCOAL WASTE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. BACKFILLING AND GRADING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. REVEGETATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. SUBSIDENCE CONTROL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. CESSATION OF OPERATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. ROADS:				
a. CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/SURFACING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. DRAINAGE CONTROLS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. SUPPORT FACILITIES/UTILITY INSTALLATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. AVS CHECK (4th Quarter-April, May, June) _____ (date)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. AIR QUALITY PERMIT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. BONDING & INSURANCE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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(Continuation sheet)

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(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

GENERAL COMMENTS

The rehabilitation of the underground workings of the Willow Creek Mine is continuing. Although the Mine's ventilation fan has been returned to service, mine rescue teams continue to use self-contained breathing apparatus to enter the Mine. The rescue teams continue to advance in 1,000 foot increments by the seal, advance, reseal method. At this time, Cyprus is considering sealing off the D-1 longwall panel, and then advancing inby in order to get the continuous miner sections operating. These plans are, however, in the very early stages of preliminary planning. The permittee would like to get the continuous miner sections back into operation, and then begin the recovery of the longwall panel. It is not known whether MSHA will allow these operations to occur simultaneously, due to the fact that the miner section crews would be working inby the fire area.

The dirt which had been placed in the Mine's five portals has been removed.

The borehole which is being drilled on the mountain and is intended to intercept the D-1 longwall panel gob area where the mine fire started is now on the fourth attempt. Drilling problems have prevailed.

4c. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES

In order to monitor the atmosphere within the Mine, and to combat the fire via CO₂ injection, it has been necessary to install several new boreholes. Access roads to the boreholes in Dinosaur, Eagle, and Willow Creek Canyons have had silt fences and straw bales installed where side drainages must cross these roads to the main Willow Creek drainage. All of the installations which were inspected were in good repair. There were no apparent flows to any of the structures.

During the inspection, Mr. Pappas gave instruction to Lynn Minchey of Minchey Digging to start reclamation of several borehole pads and their associated roads. Some boreholes are still being used by MSHA for monitoring the Mine's atmosphere. Reclamation of mud pits, the channel in upper Dinosaur Canyon, and two drill pads is under way, with roughening, mulching and seeding to complete reclamation.

7. COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPONDMENTS

Mr. Pappas has received a submittal from Hansen, Allen, and Luce for the redesign of the School House Canyon refuse pile.

The production loss caused by the fire has necessitated the purchase of coal from Genwal Resources, Inc., Crandall Canyon Mine. The permittee is washing this coal to improve quality, hence placing any reject on the School House Canyon pile.

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The permittee is also considering reprocessing the waste rock pile from the Cyprus Star Point Mine. The permittee must receive DOGM approval prior to initiation; that reject will also be placed in School House. It seems certain that the storage volume remaining in this disposal area, as its design currently exists, will rapidly dwindle.

The permittee needs to re-initiate the recovery of topsoil from the slopes adjacent to School House Canyon refuse disposal area.

11. CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION

As noted above, the permittee is initiating reclamation of several drill pad areas and their associated access roads. Dinosaur Canyon has been reclaimed once, post-exploration activities. It is certainly hoped that once the Mine is returned to production, future boreholes will not be needed (drilling access being limited due to terrain). That probably cannot be assured until the permittee has determined a method for the prevention of ignition of the hydrocarbon vapors.

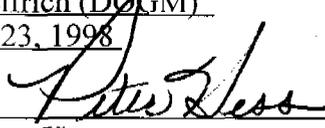
18. SUPPORT FACILITIES/UTILITY INSTALLATIONS

The Price River Water Improvement District has completed the repair of the feed line which supplies water to the raw water process pond for coal washing purposes.

Note: This inspection report does not constitute an affidavit of compliance with the regulatory program of the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining.

Copy of this Report:

Mailed to: Johnny Pappas (Plateau) Henry Austin (OSM)
Given to: Joe Helfrich (DOGM) Filed to: Price Field Office
Date: December 23, 1998

Inspector's Signature:  #46
Peter Hess