

0011



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

INSPECTION REPORT

1027

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Partial: ___ Complete: XXX Exploration: ___
Inspection Date & Time: 10/24&25/96 / 8:00-4:45, 8:00-12:00
Date of Last Inspection: 9/11/96

Mine Name: Willow Creek Mine County: Carbon Permit Number: ACT/007/038
Permittee and/or Operator's Name: Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation
Business Address: P. O. Drawer PMC, Price, Utah 84501
Type of Mining Activity: Underground XXX Surface ___ Prep. Plant ___ Other ___
Company Official(s): Ben Grimes
State Officials(s): Peter Hess Federal Official(s): None
Weather Conditions: Cold, Raining, Friday-Snow, Snow, Snow
Existing Acreage: Permitted- 11,500 Disturbed- 40 Regraded- Seeded- Bonded- 56
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

- 1. Substantiate the elements on this inspection by checking the appropriate performance standard.
a. 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.
b. For partial inspections check only the elements evaluated.
2. Document any noncompliance situation by referencing the NOV issued at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
3. Reference any narratives written in conjunction with this inspection at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
4. Provide a brief status report for all pending enforcement actions, permit conditions, Division Orders, and amendments.

Table with 5 columns: Item, EVALUATED, N/A, COMMENTS, NOV/ENF. Rows include: PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE; SIGNS AND MARKERS; TOPSOIL; HYDROLOGIC BALANCE; DIVERSIONS; SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS; OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES; WATER MONITORING; EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS; EXPLOSIVES; DISPOSAL OF EXCESS SPOIL/FILLS/BENCHES; COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS; NONCOAL WASTE; PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES; SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE; CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION; BACKFILLING AND GRADING; REVEGETATION; SUBSIDENCE CONTROL; CESSATION OF OPERATIONS; ROADS; CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/SURFACING; DRAINAGE CONTROLS; OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES; SUPPORT FACILITIES/UTILITY INSTALLATIONS; AVS CHECK (4th Quarter-April, May, June)(date); AIR QUALITY PERMIT; BONDING & INSURANCE.



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(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

1. PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE

Three topics are currently pending:

- a) The installation of two weirs in the Willow Creek channel above and below the disturbed area which will allow the permittee to obtain information pertaining to flow variations. The State Engineer has approved these installations; the weirs are undergoing fabrication. Mr. Grimes indicated that it is his intent to have the weirs installed within the next two weeks.
- b) With regard to amendment ACT/007/038-96D, Railroad yard modification, the Division is currently awaiting a resubmittal which will address initial deficiencies for pond 12B regarding--
 - 1) eastern cut slope design;
 - 2) additional design assumptions which will address rapid drawdown and ground vibration;
 - 3) the fill material used in the construction of the Hilfiker wall (the Hilfiker wall will be the southern embankment of pond 12B);
 - 4) foundation design concerns for the Hilfiker wall.

Mr. Grimes indicated that he hoped the resubmittal would be ready by the week of 10/28/96.

- c) The separation of those portions of the Castle Gate permit which are to be a part of the Willow Creek permit; these include the preparation plant, the major portion of the Crandall Canyon ventilation shafts disturbance, and the Gravel Canyon topsoil pile.

2. SIGNS AND MARKERS

The following recommendations were made during the course of this inspection:

- a) The permittee needs to install stream buffer zone markers on the west side of the Price River in the vicinity of the rail car loadout.

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- b) The permittee needs to come up with an alternative method to accurately delineate the disturbed area perimeter around the railcar loadout. Mr. Grimes indicated that the railroad does not like the usage of "T" posts within their right-of-way. It was suggested that perhaps paint of a vibrant color could be used to mark items (i.e., a corner of a concrete pad, an upright on a railing, etc.) to outline the disturbance.
- c) It is felt by this inspector that additional disturbed area perimeter markers need to be installed around the entire site. Markers that are already in place are hard to locate (paint is well faded), and a certain amount of imagination is required in some areas to trace the perimeter. Old markers should be repainted.

3. **TOPSOIL**

Hydroseeding will be occurring at the site in the very near future. Cyprus has contracted Mr. Kelly Ellis (who is currently doing the work at U. S. Fuel, Hiawatha Complex) to do the seeding. The topsoil pile at the Willow Creek mine site is one of the areas to be treated.

All other piles which were inspected for the site, (this includes the Gravel Canyon pile and Crandall Canyon piles) were well vegetated and showed no sign of erosion.

4a. **HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: DIVERSIONS**

There are two diversions in the Crandall Canyon area which are in need of attention. The first is an 18 inch CMP approximately 200 feet above the main gate; it carries road drainage from one side to the other. The slope of the down dip channel is too small to prevent sediment buildup; if this channel is cleaned, the CMP should clean itself during the next precipitation event. The second culvert lies under the access road junction point on the west side of the Crandall Canyon fan housing installation. It appears to be a 12 inch culvert, but the inlet is completely buried; the outlet is silted in approximately eighty percent of the cross-sectional area. Mr. Grimes indicated that he would need to investigate this area to determine if this culvert had been abandoned in place. It is not shown on Exhibit 3.7-7, Castle Gate MRP.

The drainage ditch on the west side of the Schoolhouse Canyon refuse pile needs redefining.

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The drainage ditch on the east side of Barn Canyon had some noncoal waste (old culverts, sections of power pole, etc.) obstructing it. Mr. Grimes immediately removed these.

4b. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS

The third quarter sediment pond inspections for the site were conducted on September 16, 1996. The ponds are located as follows; #'s 014 and 015 are the sediment ponds located in the Crandall Canyon area; #'s 011, 012A, 012B, and 013 (waste rock disposal site pond), raw water pond, and the thickener clarifier pond are associated with the preparation plant area. Pond 013 is classified as an MSHA pond (ID-1211-UT-09-00-165-02); inspections are current and are conducted weekly as required, (10/22 last inspection). No signs of erosion or instability were noted either today or during the company's inspection for any of the aforementioned ponds. Ponds 001, 002, and 003 are associated with the mine area; no problems have been noted with any of these. All inspections are P. E. certified by Mr. John Borla.

4c. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES

All of the silt fences which were inspected were in good repair and capable of functioning as designed with the exception of the silt fence surrounding a very small topsoil pile located in the train loadout area. Some repairs are necessary here; the fabric is still capable of filtering. The pile is located in an area that is well vegetated.

4d. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: WATER MONITORING

Discharge monitoring reports for UPDES permit #UTG040012 were reviewed for submittal for the various outfalls. There have not been any flows from any of the ponds to date. All reports are current; submittals are timely.

The second quarter water monitoring report for the site was submitted to the DOGM on July 31, 1996. ACZ Laboratories in Steamboat Springs, Colorado performs the analytical work for the permittee. A review of several analyses did not reveal any problems in water chemistry.

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5. EXPLOSIVES

The last shot made at the site (in vicinity of mine portals) was conducted on September 3, 1996 at approximately 12:15 P.M. All blasting reports/designs are maintained in good order. Blasting certifications for Mr. Doug Lawley and Mr. Ross Tabberer are on file at the site for inspection as required by R645-105-452.100.

7. COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS

The third quarter refuse pile inspection was conducted on October 21, 1996 by Mr. John Borla, P. E. The certification is current. Piezometer holes on the 1st and 2nd terrace were dry. No problems were noted.

9. PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES

A large bulk fluid storage tank (approximately 10,000 gallons) which is used to store antifreeze for rail shipments is located beneath the 6,000 T.P.H. conveyor to the train loadout. At present, this tank is empty. The permittee needs to design and construct a retention berm around the tank which is capable of retaining the contents **before the tank is put into use**, if that is the intent.

A site specific SPCC plan has still not been P.E. certified or submitted. Mr. Grimes indicated that he needs to review several tank locations and verify their locations for the surface facility map.

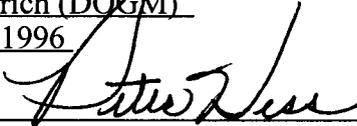
Note: This inspection report does not constitute an affidavit of compliance with the regulatory program of the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining.

Copy of this Report:

Mailed to: Ben Grimes (CPM) Marcia Petta (OSM)

Given to: Joe Helfrich (DOGM) Filed to: Price Field Office

Date: October 31, 1996

Inspector's Signature:  #46

Peter Hess