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

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August 8, 1996

TO: File

THROUGH: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Paul Baker, Reclamation Biologist *PAB*

Re: Updates to the Willow Creek Mining and Reclamation, Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation, Willow Creek Mine, ACT/007/038, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

SYNOPSIS

Cyprus has submitted several pages of additions and changes to the Willow Creek Mining and Reclamation Plan. Much of this submittal consists of correspondence and technical analysis from the permit review process. The plan does not need to contain the Division's entire technical analysis, CHIA, and many of the other documents included.

There are two minor change to the biology section of the plan.

ANALYSIS

PERMIT APPLICATION FORMAT AND CONTENTS

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-120

Analysis:

Cyprus has changed one sentence in Section 5.3.2.6, Revegetation Success - Criteria and Evaluation Methods. The change is not substantive and merely improves the structure of a sentence. However, the page that was submitted, 5.3-10, has wording that overlaps page 5.3-11 of the Division's copy of the plan. This needs to be corrected.

Cyprus has submitted for inclusion in the plan the Division's entire decision document, technical analysis (TA) and cumulative hydrologic impact assessment (CHIA). The plan is supposed to be concise, and these materials do not need to be included in the plan.

Also included are at least four response letters to the Division's reviews. These letters contain the Division's deficiencies and the responses. While these letters show some of the thought processes that Cyprus (or its consultants) used in responding to the Division, all of these materials are already in the Division's files. They do not contain baseline information, commitments or plans that need to be included in the mining and reclamation plan.

Findings:

The applicant has not met the minimum requirements for this section of the regulations. Prior to final approval, the applicant must make the following changes:

1. Wording at the end of page 5.3-10 in this submittal does not match wording on the next page in the Division's copy of the mining and reclamation plan. This problem needs to be corrected.
2. The permittee submitted the Division's technical analysis, cumulative hydrologic impact assessment, and decision document. They also included several letters written during the permit application process responding to the Division's comments. These items do not need to be included in the mining and reclamation plan.

FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-322

Analysis:

The Willow Creek Mine construction schedule was within the nesting period for golden eagles, and there are several nests within one-half mile of the mine. The permittee coordinated monitoring efforts with the Division and Wildlife Resources and checked for eagle nesting in February through June. One pair of eagles nested in Castle Canyon to the east of the mine.

The permittee has submitted a copy of its monitoring plan for inclusion in the mining and reclamation plan. Also included is an approval letter from the Division of Wildlife Resources. While these monitoring activities have already occurred, part of the monitoring was during the period after the permit was issued. Therefore, the plan should be included in the mining and reclamation plan.

Analysis:

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Information regarding the requirements of this section of the regulations was found to meet the minimum regulatory requirements.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The eagle monitoring plan included in this submittal should be approved and included in the Willow Creek Mining and Reclamation Plan. The submittal includes a lot of information and correspondence that is already in the Division's files and is not necessary for the plan.