

0008

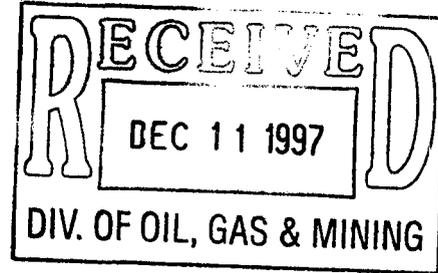


**CYPRUS PLATEAU  
MINING CORPORATION**  
A Cyprus Amax Company

Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation  
Post Office Drawer PMC  
Price, Utah 84501  
(801) 637-2875

December 10, 1997

Mr. Joe Helfrich  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
1594 West North Temple, Ste 1210  
P.O. Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801



Re: Unit Train Loadout and Preparation Plant Runoff Control, and Clean Coal Storage Area Expansion Amendment, Willow Creek Mine, ACT/007/038, Carbon County, Utah

Dear Mr. Helfrich:

Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation (CPMC) is requesting Division approval to commence with the reconstruction of Pond 011 and construction of a sediment trap at its Willow Creek Mine Preparation Plant and Loadout Facilities, respectively. CPMC is requesting this authorization based on the fact that the Division did not find any deficiencies during their technical review of the permit amendment regarding the redesign of Pond 011 and design of the loadout sediment trap.

The timely reconstruction of Pond 011 is critical to ensure that the appropriate engineering specifications (i.e. compaction limits) are obtained and not jeopardized by inclement weather conditions (i.e. ground freezing). The redesigned Pond 011 is the first step in facilitating the expansion of the clean coal stockpile. It must be in place and ready to treat the additional disturbed runoff that will report from the expanded clean coal stockpile.

The new sediment trap is being proposed to better treat any runoff from the unit train loadout area. With this structure, treatment of runoff from the unit train loadout is not dependent on only a vegetation filter, but instead, a treatment device that provides for the deposition of sediment and the further treatment of water through a silt fence before discharging to and through the existing vegetation filter. CPMC is eager to install the sediment trap to better treat runoff coming in contact with its unit train loadout facility. Again, ground freezing conditions will preclude any construction.

CPMC will have responses to the Division regarding those deficiencies relating to the clean coal stockpile expansion on December 12, 1997, for the 9:00 a.m. meeting. Following the meeting, it is CPMC's desire to have all deficiencies adequately addressed and approval to commence with the clean coal expansion activities to follow shortly.

CPMC submitted this permit amendment application on September 29, 1997, in anticipation of a timely review by the Division and to avoid the potential shutdown of the Willow Creek Preparation Plant due to lack of clean coal storage capacity. Therefore, to reiterate CPMC's request, it would like Division

*#2*  
*Copy Joe and Pete approved 12/11/97*  
*NOT Designated as an Amendment*

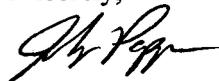
Mr. Joe Helfrich  
December 10, 1997  
Page 2

authorization to proceed with the Pond 011 reconstruction and the unit train loadout sediment trap immediately, based on the fact that no deficiencies were identified during the Division's review. Also it would like the Division of reconsider those deficiencies pertaining to the clean coal stockpile expansion that are not germane and those identifying missing information that really aren't missing.

The Willow Creek Mine will have approximately 90,000 tons of clean coal stockpiled by the middle of January. The existing clean coal stockpile area will only facilitate approximately 70,000 tons, thereby necessitating an immediate expansion to avoid a shut down of the preparation plant and subsequent inability to meet contractual demands. The Division's follow-up, review and approval of the expansion area deficiencies is of the utmost urgency.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me and (435) 472-4741.

Sincerely,



Johnny Pappas  
Sr. Environmental Engineer