

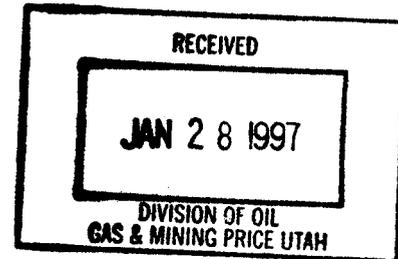
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Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation
Post Office Drawer PMC
Price, Utah 84501
(801) 637-2875

January 25, 1997

Mr. Pete Hess
Utah Department of Natural Resources
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
451 East 400 North
CEU Box 169
Price, Utah 84501-2699



97A
057/038
#2

Dear Mr. Hess,

RE: WILLOW CREEK PERMIT CHANGE - GEOTECHNICAL DRILLING PROJECT -
REFUSE PILE EXPANSION AND THICKENER POND REDESIGN PROJECTS

Enclosed is a change form and information describing a proposed geotechnical drilling program for the subject projects.

As discussed with you previously we are desirous of expanding the refuse pile and improving the functionality of the preparation plant thickener pond system. To accomplish these goals, we have contracted with a consulting firm to start the design process. A geotechnical firm has also been contracted to work with the consultant to investigate the foundation conditions of both areas.

We believe the redesign of the refuse pile will accomplish the following:

1. Improve stability of the pile.
2. Improve the reclamation potential of the pile by flattening out its face.
3. Increase refuse storage volume and extend the life of the pile.

We believe redesigning the preparation plant thickener pond system will accomplish the following:

1. Improve the functionality of the system.
2. Provide a system that is more environmentally safe.
3. Improve the ability to clean out the coal fines from the pond/s.
4. Improve water handling and recirculation of plant water.

We will be meeting with the Division in the near future to outline the design parameters for both projects, and to discuss the permitting process. Proposed drill holes T97-1 through T97-3 are to investigate soil conditions for the thickener pond

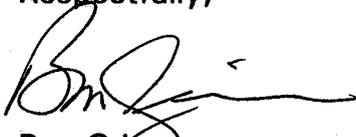
system redesign. Drill holes R97-1 through R97-7 are to investigate soil conditions and refuse stability conditions for the refuse pile redesign and expansion. Drill holes R97-6 and R97-7 will be converted into ground water monitoring wells or piezometers to monitor internal water levels in the refuse pile.

Enclose are copies of the proposals for design and geotechnical drilling.

After completion of the designs, permit changes will be submitted to the Division for construction of the projects. This change is only for geotechnical investigations.

We are excited to start these projects and ask that you review this change as soon as possible.

Respectfully,



Ben Grimes
Sr. Staff Project Engineer

Enclosures

C: Paul Baker
J. Pappas

File: WCENV 2.5.2.19.4
WCENG 5.1.1
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