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

Michael O. Leavitt
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September 30, 1997

Ben Grimes, Senior Staff Project Engineer
Cyprus Plateau Mining Corp.
P.O. Drawer PMC
Price, Utah 84501

Re: Castle Gate, Willow Creek Separation, Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation, Willow Creek Mine, ACT/007/038-96F, File #2, Carbon County, Utah

Dear Mr. Grimes:

The referenced amendment is hereby approved effective September 3, 1997. The approval is based on the analysis and findings of Paul Baker's memo dated September 3, 1997. A stamped approved incorporated copy is enclosed for insertion into your Mining and Reclamation Plan.

Please submit two additional copies of this approval for distribution. If you have any questions please call. Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,

Joseph C. Helfrich
Permit Supervisor

tat
Enclosure
cc: Ranvir Singh, OSM
Richard Manus, BLM
Mark Page, Water Rights, w/o
Dave Ariotti, DEQ, w/o
Bill Bates, DWR, w/o
David T. Terry, SITLA, w/o
Paul Baker, DOGM, w/o
Pete Hess, DOGM, w/o
Price Field Office
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September 3, 1997

TO: File

THRU: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Paul Baker, Reclamation Biologist

RE: Castle Gate/Willow Creek Separation, Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation, Willow Creek Mine, ACT/007/038-96F, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

SUMMARY:

Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation has made changes to its mining and reclamation plan for the Willow Creek Mine in order to separate this plan from the Castle Gate Mine plan. The original proposal was submitted November 29, 1996, and it was revised in a submittal received June 12, 1997. The information is now in a form where it can be inserted into the Willow Creek mining and reclamation plan. There are at least two sections from the original submittal that will need to be deleted.

Rather than writing a technical analysis for the entire Willow Creek mining and reclamation plan, this review considers only the proposed additions to the Willow Creek plan. These changes are now considered to be compatible with the existing plan.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

OPERATIONS WITHIN PERMIT AREA

Regulatory Reference: R645-300-141

Analysis:

In the original proposal to separate the Castle Gate and Willow Creek permits, Section 3.9 from the Castle Gate plan was included in the Willow Creek plan. This was apparently a mistake, and this section has now been deleted from the Willow Creek plan.

According to maps in the two plans, the permit areas will still overlap slightly if the proposal is approved. There are no surface facilities in the overlap area, and this is not considered a deficiency.

Findings:

Information provided in the proposal is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

RESOURCE INFORMATION

VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-320

Analysis:

Chapter nine from the Castle Gate mining and reclamation plan contains baseline vegetation information for the Castle Gate Preparation Plant and Crandall Canyon areas. The Gravel Canyon area is relatively small and is presumed to have had vegetation similar to what surrounds the preparation plant. Chapter nine includes quantitative vegetation information for three reference areas in Crandall Canyon and two near the preparation plant. The information has been previously approved for the Castle Gate mining and reclamation plan and is considered adequate.

Chapter ten contains wildlife information. For the most part, the information is not site-specific and consists of a report prepared by the Division of Wildlife Resources concerning wildlife in the general area. This chapter does contain some surveys done for specific projects, however. Needed information and commitments for both wildlife information and wildlife protection are contained in the existing Willow Creek mining and reclamation plan.

Findings:

Information provided in the proposal is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

OPERATION PLAN

AIR QUALITY

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-420

Analysis:

Appendix 11-1, included in the proposal, contains a copy of the Air Quality Approval Order for the Willow Creek Mine. This approval order is for the mine and the

Castle Gate Preparation Plant and supersedes other approval orders previously issued to Price River Coal Company and Castle Gate Coal Company. The approval order does not include the Crandall Canyon facilities or Gravel Canyon. Operations at Gravel Canyon are usually minimal, and the applicant does not intend to use Crandall Canyon in the immediate future; however, they need to be aware that another approval order would probably be needed in the event the Crandall Canyon shafts were reopened.

Findings:

Information provided in the proposal is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

RECLAMATION PLAN

REVEGETATION

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-341

Analysis:

The current Willow Creek mining and reclamation plan shows three seed mixtures. One is for upland areas, one is for long-term temporary revegetation, and one is for the realigned sections of Willow Creek.

Chapter nine of the Castle Gate mining and reclamation plan has been added to the Willow Creek plan. This chapter now contains two seed mixes and describes where they should be used. However, the various sections taken from the Castle Gate mining and reclamation plan specify which seed mixes would be used in which areas. Species list two would be used in most of Crandall Canyon, and species list three would be used along the channels in Crandall Canyon and near the Price River in the preparation plant area. The seed mix for upland areas shown in the Willow Creek plan would be used for remaining areas.

In accordance with recommendations from the Division and from Wildlife Resources, the applicant has modified the upland seed mix from the Willow Creek plan, and the plan now indicates certain species will be broadcast seeded rather than drilled.

Findings:

Information provided in the proposal to separate the Castle Gate and Willow Creek permit areas is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

LAND USE RECLAMATION PLAN

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-412

Analysis:

The pre- and postmining land uses in the current Willow Creek plan are stated consistently as being industrial/commercial, undeveloped land, and forestry. Undeveloped lands are used for wildlife habitat, recreation and grazing, but these uses are not well developed.

Premining and postmining land uses in the Castle Gate Preparation Plant, Gravel Canyon, and Crandall Canyon areas vary, but Chapter four says the land use or uses for each particular area within the permit boundary is discussed in the corresponding chapter or section in more detail. The uses discussed in the various sections include wildlife habitat, grazing, and undeveloped land. For the reclamation plan, no changes from the premining land uses are proposed.

Analysis:

Information provided in the proposal is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The proposal to separate the Castle Gate and Willow Creek permit areas meets regulatory requirements and can be approved.