

0008



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

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor
Ted Stewart
Executive Director
James W. Carter
Division Director

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801
(801) 538-5340
(801) 359-3940 (Fax)

December 15, 1997

To: File

Thru: Joe Helfrich, Permit Supervisor-Compliance *JH*

From: Peter Hess, Reclamation Specialist III *PH*

RE: Minor Coal Exploration, Skinny Canyon, Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation, Willow Creek Mine, ACT/007/038-97L, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

SUMMARY

Due to encountering some unforeseen geologic conditions, Cyprus Plateau is proposing to drill two additional exploration holes in Skinny Canyon (a side canyon off of the main Willow Creek canyon) to determine geologic conditions. This information is crucial to determine the necessity of a new mine layout. At this point, the encountering of a large sand rock channel may make it necessary to shorten the first longwall panel by 50 percent.

The information found in this submittal is considered adequate to meet the requirements of R645-200 and R645-202.

It is my recommendation that this minor exploration plan be approved.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

Operation Plan
Analysis

The two holes will remove less than 250 tons of coal.

There are no known threatened or endangered species within the designated exploration area.



Page 2

File/J.Helfrich

Skinny Canyon Exploration - 97L

December 15, 1997

The road to access the holes (P97-30-6 and P97-30-7) is pre-existing, and is on ground owned by Cyprus Plateau. The holes will be drilled on the edge of the travelway. Approximately 2,000 square feet of new disturbance will be created at each drill hole; this equates to .09 acres of new disturbance, which can be considered minimal.

Topsoil will be stripped and stored near each pad for the reclamation of same.

Reclamation Plan

Analysis

Only the 4,000 square feet of new disturbance incorporated in the two drill pads will be reclaimed. The pre-existing road will remain, but in better condition.

Mud pits and pads will be reclaimed to AOC standards; acid/toxic materials will not be utilized. Fuel spill cleanups and or new core will be taken off-site and properly disposed of.

Pad areas will be scarified; the seed mix to be utilized in the reclamation is the one approved in the Willow Creek MRP, Table 5.3-2.

Reclamation Bond

Analysis

The Willow Creek Mine preparation plant area is still double bonded; the permittee considers this adequate for the reclamation of the two holes.

Hydrology

Analysis

Hydrologic considerations are adequate, R645-202-235.

RECOMMENDATION

This minor exploration meets the requirements of the R645 regulations; it should be approved.