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

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October 21, 1997

TO: File

THRU: Jesse Kelley, Senior Reclamation Specialist, Acting  
for Joe Helfrich, Permit Supervisor *JK*

FROM: Peter Hess, Reclamation Specialist III *PH*

RE: Minor Exploration Permit Request, Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation, Willow Creek Mine, ACT/007/038-97G, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

**SUMMARY:**

Cyprus Plateau is requesting permit approval to drill seven exploration boreholes and bore a hole through the Crandall Canyon return air shaft cap to monitor ground water elevation. Of the seven boreholes, six will be retained for water monitoring purposes. In a memo to Joe Helfrich, Permit Supervisor, on October 3, 1997, the initial submittal was felt to have three deficiencies.

- 1) The utilization of a drill rig on top of the air shaft cap and the boring of a hole through the concrete presented some major safety concerns to this individual.
- 2) Cyprus did not have a UDOT permit or approval to do any work within the Highway 50 and 6 right-of-way. It was necessary to rework the road berm to access the exploration road to hole B-354.
- 3) Bonding for the reclamation of the holes was not discussed in the original submittal.

**TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:**

**Analysis:**

A response from the permittee received in this office on 10/20/97 offers the

following:

- 1) The permittee intends to use a coring saw immersed in water/drilling mud mix to reduce the potential for a methane ignition upon break through. This plan has been discussed and reviewed by MSHA. Other safety precautions will be implemented as MSHA deems necessary for hazard reduction. This response is adequate to negate the concerns which I had for the safety of the individuals and the environment. See page 4 of the document submitted October 20, 1997.
- 2) The permittee has applied for and received an approval for a UDOT Right-of Way Encroachment Permit as of October 1, 1997. The shoulder work necessary to access hole B-354 may now proceed.
- 3) The permittee has responded to the bonding deficiency on page 20 of the revised document submitted on October 20, 1997. The dual bond for the preparation plant and Crandall Canyon areas which was required for the permit(s) separation (Castle Gate/Willow Creek) remains in effect and will be addressed now that ACT/007/038-97F has been approved, effective September 3, 1997. Bonding for the wells which are to remain permanent will be adjusted accordingly.

**Findings:**

The information which has been provided in response to the deficiency memo dated October 3, 1997 is adequate to address the concerns aired by this individual.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

I recommend that Cyprus Plateau be given Division approval to proceed with the implementation of Minor Exploration Permit ACT/007/038-97G as soon as possible.

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