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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)
801-538-7223 (TDD)

October 16, 1997

TO: File

THRU: Joe Helfrich, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Sharon Falvey, Senior Reclamation Specialist, Hydrologist. SLF

RE: Wells and Notice of Intent to Conduct Minor Coal Exploration, Cyprus Plateau Mining, Willow Creek Mine, ACT/007/038-97-G, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

SUMMARY:

This exploration amendment is intended to be used in order to update information related to the Probable Hydrologic Consequences. Following the July 1997 event where water was encountered in the mine, it was determined that the groundwater will need to be discharged from the "K" and "C" seams order to continue mining. This application was submitted as a means to gather information which will provide baseline and operational information for the de-watering activity. Although the information should be submitted as part of the existing plan; baseline information is often collected, and then incorporated as part of the mine plan. In order to expedite the information gathering process the applicant should proceed with the proposed drilling plan, and then incorporate the information gathered into the mine plan and PHC following drilling.

ANALYSES:

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

The following wells were indicated to be important to identify the groundwater occurrence in old abandoned mines B354, B363, B11 B12 B311 and B312. A formal PHC is intended to be submitted following information gathering.

Findings:

This amendment meets the minimum requirements for exploration. The information obtained from these drill holes are intended to provide reconnaissance information to be incorporated in the forthcoming PHC update.

RECOMMENDATION:

In order to expedite the information gathering process the applicant should proceed with the proposed drilling plan, and then incorporate the information gathered into the mine plan and PHC following drilling. This writer concurs with recommendations proposed in the October 3, 1997 memo from Pete Hess.

The permittee should submit this information in a format that can be incorporated into the exiting plan. The amendment should provide analyses of any operational monitoring and any reconnaissance information pertinent to future de-watering operations. Information which updates the PHC must be provided prior to de-watering these seams.