0027


# 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)


October 3, 1997

To: File

Thru: Joe Helfrich, Permit Supervisor, Compliance

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 cut a one foot diameter hole in the shaft cap of the Crandall Canyon return air shaft for the purpose of monitoring ground water elevation. Of the seven boreholes, six will be retained for water monitoring purposes.

1) P97-29-1 is for obtaining geologic information only and will be plugged. It will be drilled by re-establishing a pre-SMCRA exploration road (built to drill hole MC-120) and then constructing an additional 300 feet of new roadway. Cyprus is committed to reclaiming this pad and roadway to its pre-drilling condition. Sediment control will be maintained until vegetation has been re-established. Cyprus Plateau is the surface owner.

2,3) Holes B-311 and B-312 will be drilled underground in the "D" seam workings into the Kenilworth Mine.

4,5) Holes B-11 and B-12 are to be drilled within the Mine's disturbed area boundary and disturbance should be minimal.

6) Hole B-363 is to be drilled in Barn Canyon where surface ownership is Cyprus Plateau.

7) Hole B-354 is to be located approximately 1,650 feet up Canyon of the Willow Creek rail car loadout about 85 feet off of Utah Highway 50-6. Although the hole itself is outside of the UDOT right of way, access to this location must be obtained by constructing a 14 foot wide road through the DOT road shoulder for a distance of 80 feet. The permittee must obtain approval from the UDOT in order to do this. Cyprus-Amax owns the surface.

Cyprus' proposal to drill the hole in the cap of the Crandall Canyon return air shaft has been modified to cutting a hole in the concrete/steel reinforced cap. An inspection conducted on 10/1/97 reveals that there is no vent cap for methane bleedoff of this shaft prior to any work being conducted. As far as I can determine, there is no design for this cap. The shaft was exhausting this day, (no methanometer was available to determine CH4 concentration) as determined by several cracks along the edge of the seal. The permittee must work out with MSHA what safety precautions will be implemented if they intend to follow through with this boring.

**TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:**

Analysis:

This submittal, as received on September 22, 1997, addresses the majority of the requirements of the R645 regulations for this minor coal exploration with the exception of reclamation bonding.

Findings:

Information provided in the proposed amendment for this minor coal exploration is felt to be adequate with the exception of bonding for the following holes; B-311, B-312, B-11, B-12, B-363, and P97-29-1.

Information provided in the proposed amendment for this minor coal exploration is not adequate to address the R645 regulations for minor coal exploration for the Crandall Canyon return air shaft cap boring and for hole B-354.

**CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION:**

Cyprus must address any safety precautions which MSHA mandates prior to receiving DOGM approval to bore the hole in the Crandall Canyon return air shaft cap.

Cyprus must receive approval from the Utah DOT prior to receiving DOGM approval to cut the road within the DOT right-of-way to hole B-354.

Cyprus must address the requirements for reclamation bonding of the boreholes.

It is recommended that, upon completion of the bonding requirements for all boreholes that Cyprus be allowed to proceed with the exploration holes designated as P97-29-1, B-311, B-312, B-11, B-12, and B-363.

sd