

0029



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

INSPECTION REPORT

gh

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)

Partial: Complete: XXX Exploration:
Inspection Date & Time: 9/24/97 / 8:45a.m.-3:00p.m.
Date of Last Inspection: 8/25/97

Mine Name: Willow Creek Mine County: Carbon Permit Number: ACT/007/038
Permittee and/or Operator's Name: Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation
Business Address: P. O. Drawer PMC, Price, Utah 84501
Type of Mining Activity: Underground XXX Surface Prep. Plant Other
Company Official(s): Ben Grimes
State Officials(s): Peter Hess, Joe Helfrich Federal Official(s):
Weather Conditions: Clear, Cool, 70's
Existing Acreage: Permitted- 11,500 Disturbed- 40 Regraded- Seeded- Bonded- 56
Increased/Decreased: Permitted- Disturbed- Regraded- Seeded- Bonded-
Status: Exploration/ XXX Active/ Inactive/ Temporary Cessation/ Bond Forfeiture
Reclamation (Phase I/Phase II/ Final Bond Release/ Liability Year)

REVIEW OF PERMIT, PERFORMANCE STANDARDS & PERMIT CONDITION REQUIREMENTS

Instructions

- 1. Substantiate the elements on this inspection by checking the appropriate performance standard.
a. For complete inspections provide narrative justification for any elements not fully inspected unless element is not appropriate to the site, in which case check N/A.
b. For partial inspections check only the elements evaluated.
2. Document any noncompliance situation by referencing the NOV issued at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
3. Reference any narratives written in conjunction with this inspection at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
4. Provide a brief status report for all pending enforcement actions, permit conditions, Division Orders, and amendments.

Table with 5 columns: Item, EVALUATED, N/A, COMMENTS, NOV/ENF. Rows include: PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE; SIGNS AND MARKERS; TOPSOIL; HYDROLOGIC BALANCE; DIVERSIONS; SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS; OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES; WATER MONITORING; EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS; EXPLOSIVES; DISPOSAL OF EXCESS SPOIL/FILLS/BENCHES; COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS; NONCOAL WASTE; PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES; SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE; CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION; BACKFILLING AND GRADING; REVEGETATION; SUBSIDENCE CONTROL; CESSATION OF OPERATIONS; ROADS; CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/SURFACING; DRAINAGE CONTROLS; OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES; SUPPORT FACILITIES/UTILITY INSTALLATIONS; AVS CHECK (4th Quarter-April, May, June) (date); AIR QUALITY PERMIT; BONDING & INSURANCE.



**INSPECTION REPORT**  
(Continuation sheet)

Page 2 of 3

PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/038

DATE OF INSPECTION: 9/24/97

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

Note: Mr. Joe Helfrich, Permit Supervisor-Compliance from the Salt Lake City office, Utah DOGM accompanied me during today's inspection.

4a. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: DIVERSIONS

The permittee has repaired the deformed end on the 18 inch culvert which is located on the SE corner of the main mine substation. A new section remains to be added to return this to it's original length.

4b. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS

As of today's inspection, the permittee had not conducted the third quarter impoundment or refuse pile inspections for the site. The weekly inspections, which are required for MSHA pond 013, have been performed in a timely manner and are current. No hazards or stability problems have been noted on 013.

The second quarter impoundment/refuse pile inspections were conducted by Mr. Grimes and Mr. John Borla, P. E. on 6/19 and 6/20 respectively, and were reviewed on 6/25 during the OSM oversight inspection. No signs of instability or any other hazards were noted.

There were no problems noted during today's inspection with any of the ponds, with the exception of pond 011. New riprap has been placed in the north inlet ditch; the elevation of this cobble is too high to allow the feed ditch to drain as it should. Mr. Grimes' intent is to lower the elevation of the cobble to allow the ditch to drain properly.

4c. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES

Mr. Grimes informed us, during the inspection of the rail car loading area, that their-design of this ASCA to another means of sediment control is pending. Mr. Grimes indicated that a catch basin/vegetative filter is to be implemented in this area prior to it discharging to the Price River. The date for submittal to the DOGM is not known at this time.

4d. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: WATER MONITORING

The second quarter 1997 water monitoring report for the Willow Creek site was submitted to the DOGM SLO on July 21, 1997.

UPDES discharge monitoring reports for the months of June and July were reviewed for submittal. No discharges occurred from any of the ponds during these months. All reports were submitted timely.

4e. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

It is Mr. Grimes intent to submit a request for renewal to the Utah DEQ/Division of Water Quality for another UPDES permit for the site. UPDES #UTG040012 expires on April 30, 1998.

One change, which Mr. Grimes will request with this renewal, will be the removal of discharge point 003A from the permit. This pond was never built. Hopefully, the issuance of a UPDES permit renewal for Willow Creek will remove several of the Castle Gate ponds as monitoring points, removing confusion during inspections. Final approval of the separation of the Willow Creek permit from the Castle Gate permit (ACT/007/004-96A) is very close to completion.

INSPECTION REPORT  
(Continuation sheet)

Page 3 of 3

PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/038

DATE OF INSPECTION: 9/24/97

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

7. COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS

As noted above, the third quarter refuse pile inspection for the School House Canyon area remained to be completed as of the date of this inspection. The second quarter inspection for the pile was P. E. certified by Mr. John Borla on June 20, 1997. There were no apparent signs of instability or structural weakness reported at that time. Piezometer holes on the first and second terraces were dry.

Mr. Borla has recently been transferred to another Cyprus operation; Mr. Steve Jones, P. E., will assume the engineering certification responsibilities for the site.

9. PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES

It is Mr. Grimes intent to update the current spill prevention control and countermeasure plan to reflect some changes in personnel responsibility at the site. Also, Mr. Grimes indicated that one of the small diesel tanks, which was in use in the portal area at the time the original plan was submitted (4/7/97), is to be removed from the plan; today's inspection revealed that this same tank was still on location.

It was noted during today's inspection that the haul truck which was traversing the road to the School House Canyon waste rock facility was generating a great deal of fugitive dust. Approximately three trips were made before a water truck was seen operating. It is doubtful that the permittee was in compliance with the sites' Air Quality approval order prior to this.

16b. ROADS: DRAINAGE CONTROLS

The ditch which lies on the inside edge of the access road (first up ramp) to the School House Canyon refuse pile should be redefined.

Note: This inspection report does not constitute an affidavit of compliance with the regulatory program of the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining.

Copy of this Report:

Mailed to: Ben Grimes (Plateau) Henry Austin (OSM)  
Given to: Joe Helfrich (DOG M) Filed to: Price Field Office  
Date: October 1, 1997

Inspector's Signature:  #46  
Peter Hess