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# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

## INSPECTION REPORT

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Michael O. Leavitt  
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Partial:      Complete: XXX Exploration:       
Inspection Date & Time: 6/24 & 25/97 / 8:00a.m.-4:30p.m.  
Date of Last Inspection: 5/28/97

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 Federal Official(s): Henry Austin, OSM  
Weather Conditions: Hot, Clear, Sunny, 80'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

- Substantiate the elements on this inspection by checking the appropriate performance standard.
  - 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.
  - For partial inspections check only the elements evaluated.
- Document any noncompliance situation by referencing the NOV issued at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
- Reference any narratives written in conjunction with this inspection at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
- Provide a brief status report for all pending enforcement actions, permit conditions, Division Orders, and amendments.

	EVALUATED	N/A	COMMENTS	NOV/ENF
1. PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE	XX		XX	
2. SIGNS AND MARKERS	XX		XX	
3. TOPSOIL	XX		XX	
4. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE:				
a. DIVERSIONS	XX		XX	
b. SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS	XX		XX	
c. OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES	XX			
d. WATER MONITORING	XX		XX	
e. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS	XX		XX	
5. EXPLOSIVES	XX			
6. DISPOSAL OF EXCESS SPOIL/FILLS/BENCHES	XX			
7. COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS	XX		XX	
8. NONCOAL WASTE	XX		XX	
9. PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES	XX		XX	
10. SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE	XX			
11. CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION	XX			
12. BACKFILLING AND GRADING	XX			
13. REVEGETATION	XX			
14. SUBSIDENCE CONTROL	XX		XX	
15. CESSATION OF OPERATIONS	XX			
16. ROADS:				
a. CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/SURFACING	XX			
b. DRAINAGE CONTROLS	XX			
17. OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES	XX			
18. SUPPORT FACILITIES/UTILITY INSTALLATIONS	XX			
19. AVS CHECK (4th Quarter-April, May, June)_____ (date)	XX			
20. AIR QUALITY PERMIT	XX			
21. BONDING & INSURANCE	XX		XX	



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(Continuation sheet)

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PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/038

DATE OF INSPECTION: 6/24 & 25/97

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

Note: Mr. Henry Austin, Inspector with the U. S. Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining accompanied me during the two-way inspection of the site.

1. PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE

There are two permit amendments currently pending for the site.

- 1) ACT/007/038-96A, which is the amendment to remove the wash plant, Crandall Canyon, and Gravel Canyon from the Castle Gate permit, ACT/007/004. This will leave these areas solely within the Willow Creek permit, ACT/007/038. These areas are dually permitted, hence dual bonds cover these areas.
- 2) ACT/007/038-97D is a minor exploration permit for Barn Canyon, Dry Canyon, and Willow Creek Canyon. This was received in the PFO on 6/13/97. Several deficiencies have been forwarded to the DOGM Salt Lake Office for response to the permittee.

2. SIGNS AND MARKERS

The disturbed area perimeter markers on the slope east of the clean coal stacking tube/stockpile are inadequate in that they are missing or are impossible to distinguish.

There are several stream buffer zone signs in the Crandall Canyon area which need a more adequate mounting. Wind buffeting the signs has torn the thin metal, allowing the signs to fall from their standards.

3. TOPSOIL

Approximately 112,590 cubic yards of topsoil have been recovered and stockpiled in two locations during the new mine construction/School House Canyon refuse pile re-activation. Nineteen hundred and fifty yards of the 112,590 yards were recovered from the SE slope of the waste rock site.

4a. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: DIVERSIONS

During the inspection of the mine site, components for the soon to be completed mine fan installation were observed in Ditch DD-4. Also, rails and railroad ties were observed in the diversion which parallels the SW side of the access road to the preparation plant.

The placement of various materials/machine components in diversions at the site has been a continual problem since the inception of this project and several notices of violation have occurred from same. Mr. Grimes was able to have the fan components and the rails and ties removed from the ditches prior to the close-out of this inspection.

4b. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS

The first and second quarter impoundment inspections for the site were conducted by Mr. Grimes on March 26 and June 19 respectively. No problems were reported for any of the ponds, as noted by a review of the inspection reports. The inspection report form, which the permittee is using, is a generic form that lists all of the sites' ponds on one page, and appears to lack a sufficient amount or required reportable detail to make these inspections worth while. Although the form meets the requirement regarding the inspection, it really is merely a "lick and a promise" and lacks sufficient detail. It was felt by Mr. Austin and myself that a "standardized" form may possibly need to be developed by the DOGM for use by all permittees. This has already been done for the annual impoundment reporting requirement.

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(Continuation sheet)

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It was noted during the field portion of the inspection that pond 011 (clean coal stockpile drainage reports to this pond) is in need of cleaning. Mr. Grimes indicated that this is scheduled to be initiated soon. The material in the pond is still very wet and it may be necessary to allow more drying time prior to cleaning. The County has received several inches of rain during the past three weeks.

The weekly inspection reports for the sites MSHA pond (013, or the coarse refuse toe pond), were reviewed. The inspections are conducted according to the maximum seven day interval schedule, as required by CFR 30, Part 77.216-3(a). There were no signs of structural weakness or any hazardous conditions noted on any of the inspection reports reviewed.

4d. **HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: WATER MONITORING**

The first quarter water monitoring report for the site was submitted to SLC-DOGM on April 27, 1997.

UPDES discharge monitoring reports for the months of April and May of 1997 were reviewed for submittal. None of the discharge points (ponds 001, 002, 011, 12A, 12B, or 013) had outfalls during the two months. All reports were submitted timely.

Spring and well monitoring analysis sheets were reviewed for the sites numerous locations. B3N shows unusually amounts of iron, some samples ranging from 11.1 to 16.1 mg/l. The sampling frequency appears to be adequate.

4e. **HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS**

The current UPDES permit for the site (UTG040012) expires on April 30, 1998. The permittee should consider applying for the renewal of this permit at least six months prior to the expiration date. Outfall 003A (pertains to a pond which was never built due to the expansion of the railcar storage area) exists in the current permit, and should be deleted by DWQ when renewed.

7. **COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS**

The first and second quarter refuse pile inspection reports were P.E. certified by Mr. John Borla on 3/19/97 and 6/20/97 respectively. No hazardous conditions or other problems were noted on either of the inspections.

The annual refuse pile certification for the School House Canyon pile (ID# 1211-UT-09-00165-01) has been submitted as is required by CFR 33, Part 77.215-2(c). No signs of instability or other hazardous conditions have been noted. The Piezometer holes were reported dry.

8. **NONCOAL WASTE**

Several pallets and brattice were observed in the vicinity of the raw water pond. The brattice was used for erosion protection along the raw water pond banks when it was necessary to transfer water into this pond during the thickener pond breach. Mr. Grimes indicated that the area would be cleaned up.

9. **PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES**

The permittee has finalized a site specific spill prevention control and countermeasure plan for the Willow Creek site, effective April 7, 1997. Mr. John Borla provided the P.E. certification for this document.

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14. SUBSIDENCE CONTROL

Although mining was conducted in this area long ago, total extraction (longwall mining methods) have never been previously practiced. This fact, plus the bridging effect of the massive sandstone formations has prevented any notable subsidence in the area. Mr. Grimes indicated that the first longwall panel in the new mine will probably not begin extraction for several months. Hence, the first subsidence report will probably not be seen until 1999.

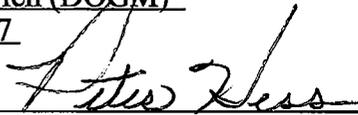
21. BONDING AND INSURANCE

It was noted during the records inspection that the current policies providing insurance coverage for the general liability and automobile liability categories (policy number RMGL1437805) expire on July 1, 1997. Mr. Grimes contacted the insurance provider during the inspection to obtain new coverage documents pre-July 1, 1997.

**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 (DOGM) Filed to: Price Field Office  
Date: June 30, 1997

Inspector's Signature:  #46  
Peter Hess