



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

INSPECTION REPORT

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Partial: XXX Complete: Exploration:
Inspection Date & Time: 2/21/97 / 1:00p.m.-2:00p.m.
2/26/97 / 8:00a.m.-11:00a.m.
Date of Last Inspection: 1/28/97

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, Jay Marshall
State Officials(s): Peter Hess Federal Official(s): None
Weather Conditions: 40's, Partly Cloudy
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 items like PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE; SIGNS AND MARKERS; TOPSOIL; HYDROLOGIC BALANCE; DIVERSIONS; SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS; etc.



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(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

3. TOPSOIL

The permittee is developing a redesign of the School House Canyon waste rock facility. The redesign will increase the amount of available storage capacity by moving the toe of the original design down Canyon to the point where the crest of the current sediment pond embankment is located. The removal of the topsoil from the first 3 lifts of the old outslope was discussed with Mr. Grimes and Mr. Marshall. Approximately 18 inches of topsoil has been placed on the 3 lifts in this area.

4a. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: DIVERSIONS

An 18 inch culvert which conveys disturbed area drainage along the NE side of the wash plant access road past the raw coal stacking tube/R.O.M. stockpile area has had the eastern end deformed by traversing equipment. Mr. Grimes indicated that he would have the culvert straightened.

Frozen ground conditions have prevented the permittee from dressing up several of the diversions at the site.

7. COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS

The redesign of the waste rock site which was previously mentioned has surfaced a design problem (haul road design) which may be impossible to solve. Mr. Grimes and I discussed the possibility of end dumping off of the present haul road, allowing the refuse to cascade down the approximate 1:1 slope. A dozer would place and compact the material from this point until a respectable grade could be established in order to build a haul road. Mr. Grimes indicated that a 22% grade is encountered when trying to bring trucks up from the below the sediment pond. Also, the location(s) of the new sediment pond(s) which will have to be installed prior to the placement of any refuse constricts the area making it impossible to design enough switchbacks to establish a safe grade. Other alternatives may be possible. The permitting of a new waste rock storage area is one that; however, in my opinion, should only be considered as a last resort.

The end dumping of refuse off of the haul road would not bury any topsoil or destroy much vegetation. Most of the slope is covered by cobble; any refuse which remains on this slope that is not buried as the height of the pile increases will need to be cleaned off prior to final reclamation practices.

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End dumping may present a safety concern; it would probably be better to push the material over the slope via bulldozer.

8. NONCOAL WASTE

The county has experienced some warming over the past several days. Noncoal waste problem areas are becoming exposed as thawing progresses. Mr. Grimes was made aware of these.

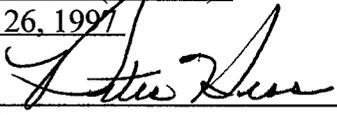
17. OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES

The refuse bin truck loading area turns into a quagmire when the wash plant is operating. This was observed on Friday, February 21st. Mr. Grimes indicated that it has been necessary for the plant operator to run extra water through this bin to prevent the refuse fines from plugging same. This extra water, in addition to more frequent refuse trips (caused by the 70% reject which the plant has been processing), is turning this area into a basin. It was suggested to Mr. Grimes that a re-evaluation of the drainage in this area be conducted. The permittee may want to consider a cement pad with a floor drain under this bin. The other alternative would be to attempt to develop temporary measures until the plant can begin processing a R.O.M. product that is consistent with what the plant was designed to handle. The permittee is already redesigning the discharge arrangement from this bin in an effort to provide better control of water.

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 (DOGGM) Filed to: Price Field Office  
Date: February 26, 1997

Inspector's Signature:  #46  
Peter Hess