



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)

November 4, 1997

Don Stephens, Geologist  
Bureau of Land Management  
Price/San Rafael Field Office  
125 South 600 West  
Price, Utah 84501

Re: Plan to Allow Drilling of Coal Exploration and Degassification Holes, Cyprus Plateau Mining Company, Willow Creek Mine, ACT/007/038-97K, File #2, Carbon County, Utah

Dear Mr Stephens:

We have received a copy of the exploration plan referenced above. We anticipate completing our review of this amendment by November 17, 1997.

As you know, this plan anticipates the drilling of 10 coal exploration holes. Eight of these holes will be reclaimed immediately after they are drilled, and since they will be located on Federal land, they are completely under the jurisdiction of your office. However, two of these holes, P97-30-2A-DG and P97-30-6-DG, will be retained for several years for the purpose of coal seam degassification. These holes and their associated surface structures will, therefore, become part of the surface facilities for this mine and will thus be subject to SMCRA and the Utah coal regulations. For this reason, our office has designated the drilling, future operation, and final reclamation of these holes as "Amendment 97K" to the approved mine plan.

Please provide our office with any comment or concerns you may have regarding the 2 degassification holes. If you have any other questions or comments, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

*Gene W. Kelley*  
for Joseph C. Helfrich

Joseph C. Helfrich  
Permit Supervisor

tat  
cc:

Ranvir Singh, OSM  
Richard Manus, BLM  
Mark Page, Water Rights  
Dave Ariotti, DEQ  
Bill Bates, DWR  
David T. Terry, SITLA  
Price Field Office

O:\007038.WILA\FINAL\EXLETTER.BLM