

0016



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

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July 29, 1997

**CERTIFIED RETURN RECEIPT**  
P 074 977 747

Ben Grimes, Sr. Staff Project Engineer  
Cyprus Plateau Mining Corp.  
P.O. Drawer PMC  
Price, UT 84501

Re: Proposed Assessment for State Violation No. N-97-46-5-1, Cyprus Plateau Mining Corp., Willow Creek Mine, ACT/007/038, Folder #5, Carbon County, Utah

Dear Mr. Grimes:

The undersigned has been appointed by the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining as the Assessment Officer for assessing penalties under R645-401.

Enclosed is the proposed civil penalty assessment for the above-referenced violation. The violation was issued by Division Inspector Peter Hess, on July 4, 1997. Rule R645-401-600 et. seq. has been utilized to formulate the proposed penalty. By these rules, any written information which was submitted by you or your agent, within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the Notice of Violation, has been considered in determining the facts surrounding the violation and the amount of penalty.

Under R645-401-700, there are two informal appeal options available to you:

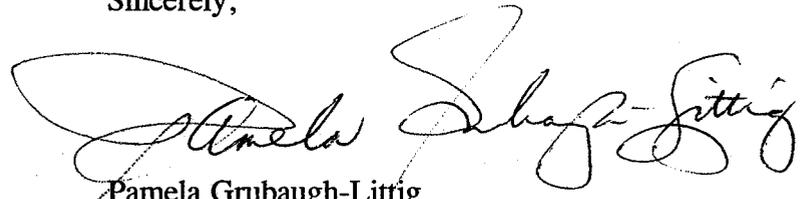
1. If you wish to informally appeal the fact of this violation, you should file a written request for an Informal Conference within 30 days of receipt of this letter. This conference will be conducted by the Division Director. This Informal Conference is distinct from the Assessment Conference regarding the proposed penalty.
2. If you wish to review the proposed penalty assessment, you should file a written request for an Assessment Conference within 30 days of receipt of this letter. If

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ACT/007/038  
July 29, 1997

you are also requesting a review of the fact of violation, as noted in paragraph 1, the Assessment Conference will be scheduled immediately following that review.

**If a timely request for review is not made, the fact of violation will stand, the proposed penalty(ies) will become final, and the penalty(ies) will be due and payable within thirty (30) days of the proposed assessment. Please remit payment to the Division, mail c/o Vicki Bailey.**

Sincerely,



Pamela Grubaugh-Littig  
Assessment Officer

blb  
Enclosure  
cc: James Fulton, OSM  
Vicki Bailey, DOGM  
O:\007038.WIL\ASSESMNT\9746-5-1.LTR

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS



**SENDER INSTRUCTIONS**

- Print your name, address and ZIP Code in the space below.
- Complete items 1, 2, 3, and 4 on the reverse.
- Attach to front of article if space permits, otherwise affix to back of article.
- Endorse article "Return Receipt Requested" adjacent to number.



PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

RETURN TO

Print Sender's name, address, and ZIP Code in the space below.

**OIL GAS & MINING**  
DIVISION  
OF  
1594 W NORTH TEMPLE STE 1210  
BOX 145801  
SALT LAKE CITY UT 84114-5801

9. Save this receipt and present it if you make inquiry. \* U.S.G.P.O. 1988-217-132

5. Enter fees for the services requested in the appropriate spaces on the front of this receipt. If return receipt is requested, check the applicable blocks in item 1 of Form 3811.

4. If you want delivery restricted to the addressee, or to an authorized agent of the addressee, endorse **RESTRICTED DELIVERY** on the front of the article.

3. If you want a return receipt, write the certified mail number and your name and address on a return receipt card, Form 3811, and attach it to the front of the article by means of the gummed ends if space permits. Otherwise, affix in back of article. Endorse front of article **RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED** adjacent to the number.

2. If you do not want this receipt postmarked, stick the gummed stub to the right of the return address of the article, date, detach and retain the receipt, and mail the article.

1. If you want this receipt postmarked, stick the gummed stub to the right of the return address leaving the receipt attached and present the article at a post office service window or hand it to your rural carrier. (no extra charge)

STICK POSTAGE STAMPS TO ARTICLE TO COVER FIRST CLASS POSTAGE, CERTIFIED MAIL FEE, AND CHARGES FOR ANY SELECTED OPTIONAL SERVICES. (see front)

ITR DOGM ACT/007/038 #5 N-97-46-5-1 7/30/97

**SENDER:** Complete items 1 and 2 when additional services are desired, and complete items 3 and 4.

Print your address in the "RETURN TO" space on the reverse side. Failure to do this will prevent this article from being returned to you. The return receipt fee will provide you the name of the person delivered to and the date of delivery. For additional fees the following services are available: consult postmaster for fees and check boxes for additional services requested.

Show to whom delivered, date, and addressee's address.  Restricted Delivery (Extra charge)

3. Article Addressed to:  
**BEN GRIMES**  
**CYPRUS PLATEAU MINING**  
**PO DRAWER PMC**  
**PRICE UT 84501**

4. Article Number: **P 074 917 747**

Type of Service:  
 Registered  
 Certified  
 Express Mail  
 Insured  
 COD  
 Return Receipt for Merchandise  
 Always obtain signature of addressee or agent and DATE RECEIVED.

5. Signature - Address:

6. Signature - Agent:

7. Date of Delivery:

8. Addressee's Address (ONLY if requested and fee paid):

PS Form 3811, Mar. 1988 \* U.S.G.P.O. 1988-212-865 DOMESTIC RETURN RECEIPT

PS Form 3800, June 1989TT DOGM ACT/007/038 #5 N-97-46-5-1 7/30/97

NO INSURANCE COVERAGE PROVIDED  
NOT FOR INTERNATIONAL MAIL  
RECEIPT FOR CERTIFIED MAIL  
P 074 977 747

Postmark or Date:

Postage	\$
Certified Fee	
Special Delivery Fee	
Restricted Delivery Fee	
Return Receipt showing to whom and Date Delivered	
Return Receipt showing to whom, Date, and Address of Delivery	
TOTAL Postage and Fee	\$ 3.02

Sent to: **BEN GRIMES**  
Street and P.O. State and ZIP Code: **CYPRUS PLATEAU**  
**PO DRAWER PMC**  
**PRICE UT 84501**

(See Reverse)

WORKSHEET FOR ASSESSMENT OF PENALTIES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS, & MINING

COMPANY/MINE Cyprus Plateau/ Willow Creek Mine NOV# N-97-46-5-1

PERMIT ACT/007/038 VIOLATION 1 OF 1

ASSESSMENT DATE 7/29/97 ASSESSMENT OFFICER Pamela Grubaugh-Littig

I. HISTORY MAX 25 POINTS

A. Are there previous violations, which are not pending or vacated, which fall within 1 year of today's date?

PREVIOUS VIOLATIONS	EFFECTIVE DATE	POINTS
<u>N-97-46-1-3</u>	<u>05/12/97</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>N-96-41-1-1</u>	<u>12/23/96</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>N-96-44-1-1</u>	<u>03/20/97</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>N-96-46-3-1</u>	<u>03/07/97</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>N-96-46-4-3</u>	<u>02/14/97</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>C-96-46-1-1</u>	<u>02/14/97</u>	<u>5</u>

1 point for each past violation, up to one year

5 points for each past violation in a CO, up to one year

No pending notices shall be counted

**TOTAL HISTORY POINTS** 14

II. SERIOUSNESS (EITHER A OR B)

NOTE: For assignment of points in Parts II and III, the following apply:

- Based on facts supplied by the inspector, the Assessment Officer will determine within each category the violation falls.
- Beginning at the mid-point of the category, the Assessment Officer will adjust the point up or down, utilizing the inspector's and operator's statements as guiding documents.

Is this an Event (A) or Hindrance (B) violation? A

A. EVENT VIOLATION MAX 45 POINTS

1. What is the event which the violated standard was designed to prevent?  
**Conducting activities without prior approval.**
2. What is the probability of the occurrence of the event which a violated standard was designed to prevent?

<u>PROBABILITY</u>	<u>RANGE</u>
None	0
Unlikely	1-9
Likely	10-19
Occurred	20

ASSIGN PROBABILITY OF OCCURRENCE POINTS 20

**PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION OF POINTS:**

The permittee drilled a 3.75" borehole 85 feet deep into the Kenilworth Mine to recirculate the water coming into the "D" Seam Mine. This activity was conducted without prior Division approval.

3. What is the extent of actual or potential damage? RANGE 0-25

In assigning points, consider the duration and extent of said damage or impact, in terms of area and impact on the public or environment.

ASSIGN DAMAGE POINTS 0

**PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION OF POINTS:**

The permittee took this action without prior approval. However, if the permittee had not taken this action immediately, the potential for environmental damage was greater.

B. HINDRANCE VIOLATION MAX 25 POINTS

1. Is this a potential or actual hindrance to enforcement?       
RANGE 0-25

Assign points based on the extent to which enforcement is actually or potentially hindered by the violation.

ASSIGN HINDRANCE POINTS     

**PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION OF POINTS:**

TOTAL SERIOUSNESS POINTS (A OR B) 20

III. NEGLIGENCE MAX 30 POINTS

- A. Was this an inadvertent violation which was unavoidable by the exercise of reasonable care? IF SO--NO NEGLIGENCE: or was this a failure of a permittee to prevent the occurrence of a violation due to indifference lack of diligence, or lack of reasonable care, or the failure to abate any violation due to the same? IF SO--GREATER DEGREE OF FAULT THAN NEGLIGENCE.

No Negligence	0
Negligence	1-15
Greater Degree of Fault	16-30

STATE DEGREE OF NEGLIGENCE No Negligence

ASSIGN NEGLIGENCE POINTS 0

**PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION OF POINTS:**

The drilling of this borehole occurred due to unexpected water flowing into actual mine workings. This water occurred due to mining near an unplugged pre-SMCRA exploration hole.

IV. GOOD FAITH MAX 20 POINTS

(Either A or B)

(Does not apply to violations requiring no abatement measures)

- A. Did the operator have onsite the resources necessary to achieve compliance of the violated standard within the permit area?

IF SO--EASY ABATEMENT

Easy Abatement Situation

Immediate Compliance -11 to -20\*

(Immediately following the issuance of the NOV)

Rapid Compliance -1 to -10

(Permittee used diligence to abate the violation)

Normal Compliance 0

(Operator complied within the abatement period required)

(Operator complied with conditions and/or terms of approved Mining and Reclamation Plan)

\*Assign in upper or lower half of range depending on abatement occurring the 1st or 2nd half of abatement period.

- B. Did the permittee not have the resources at hand to achieve compliance, or does the situation require the submission of plans prior to physical activity to achieve compliance?

IN SO--DIFFICULT ABATEMENT

Difficult Abatement Situation

Rapid Compliance -11 to -20\*

(Permittee used diligence to abate the violation)

Normal Compliance -1 to -10\*

(Operator complied within the abatement period required)

Extended Compliance 0

(Permittee took minimal actions for abatement to stay within the limits of the NOV or the violated standard of the plan submitted for abatement was incomplete)

(Permittee complied with conditions and/or terms of approved Mining and Reclamation Plan)

EASY OR DIFFICULT ABATEMENT? Difficult  
ASSIGN GOOD FAITH POINTS -15

**PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION OF POINTS:**

It is felt that the permittee took immediate action due to the seriousness of the situation.

V. ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

NOTICE OF VIOLATION	<u>N-97-46-5-1</u>
I. TOTAL HISTORY POINTS:	<u>14</u>
II. TOTAL SERIOUSNESS POINTS:	<u>20</u>
III. TOTAL NEGLIGENCE POINTS:	<u>0</u>
IV. TOTAL GOOD FAITH POINTS:	<u>-15</u>
TOTAL ASSESSED POINTS:	<u>19</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSESSED FINE:</b>	<b><u>\$190.00</u></b>