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

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February 3, 1997

Ben Grimes, Senior Staff Project Engineer
Cyprus-Plateau Mining Corporation
PO Drawer PMC
Price, Utah 84501

RE: Geotechnical Drilling Project--Refuse Pile Expansion and Thickener Pond Redesign Projects, Cyprus Plateau Mining, Willow Creek Mine, ACT/007/038-97A, Folder #3, Carbon County, Utah

Dear Mr. Grimes:

The aforementioned amendment, as received on January 28, 1997, has been designated as **97A** by the Price Field Office.

It is my opinion that the geotechnical investigation which is described for the refuse pile expansion project and the thickener overflow pond redesign falls within the definition of a minor "coal exploration", as the borings are to gather environmental data to establish the conditions of the area before beginning coal mining operations (i.e., the placement of refuse, and the construction of the piles associated sediment control structure(s). It is the permittee's responsibility to adequately address the requirements of R645-200 through 203 for any exploration permit. This has not been done with **97A** as received January 27, 1997. The removal of topsoil/vegetation from the R97-5 location has not been addressed. Neither has the revegetation of the area. The reclamation of the holes, with the exception of R97-6 and R97-7, (which are to remain as ground water monitoring holes) has not been addressed.

Please resubmit **97A** after the requirements of the R645-200 and 203 regulations have been adequately addressed. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Peter Hess

Peter Hess
Reclamation Specialist III

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cc: Joe Helfrich, Permit Supervisor