

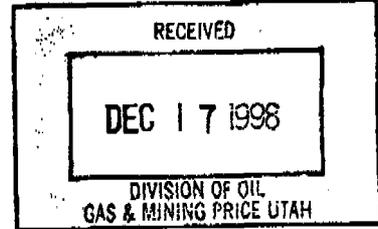
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**CYPRUS PLATEAU
MINING CORPORATION**
A Cyprus Amex Company

Willow Creek Mine
847 Northwest Highway 191
Helper, Utah 84526
(435) 472-0475
Fax: (435) 472-4780

December 8, 1998



Pete Hess
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
451 East 400 North
CEU Box 169
Price, Utah 84501

RE: Mine Fire Drilling Program, Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation, Willow Creek Mine, ACT/007/038, Carbon County, Utah

FILE FOLDER #2

Dear Mr. Hess:

Before I proceed any further discussing measures taken to date regarding the aforementioned, I first would like to express Cyprus' appreciation to the Division for its cooperation and professionalism exhibited at the time of the fire and as we make every effort to monitor the in-mine atmosphere, re-enter and recover the mine. Mr. Malencik's and your guidance has been invaluable and most appreciated.

As you are aware, in-mine atmosphere must be known prior to any re-entry operation and provided as part of the Re-entry Plan to MSHA for their review and Plan approval. Therefore, to obtain this information Cyprus utilized the existing degasification borehole and had to drill additional sampling locations to monitor various portions of the mine. This action required, to date, four drill holes and their associated drilling and lay down pads, and access to and from the sites. In addition to drilling activities, reinjection of CO2 into the longwall gob (completed) and immediate fire zone (pending) via an 8500 foot pipeline consisting of 2-inch steel pipe had to be laid on the surface to facilitate the conveyance of the CO2 from the three large tanks placed on the mountain ridge. Reinjection into the immediate fire zone has been hampered by drilling problems. The drillers have lost two holes thus far and are hoping to be successful with the third.

Most of the drilling activities utilized old drill roads and pads, some previously reclaimed and some not, but there was some new disturbance that could not be avoided. In our haste, a couple pads were constructed in the wrong location, but reclaimed shortly thereafter. Once the drilling activities are completed, an evaluation will be made to determine if and what holes are needed long term and what method of access is needed. Upon this determination, the appropriate reclamation measures will be taken as soon as possible - weather permitting.

Therefore, it is Cyprus's intent to plug the aborted holes along with any other drill hole not needed for monitoring purposes and reclaim any disturbance as soon as possible. Sediment control measures have been installed to minimize sediment contributions to the stream flow and will be maintained as long as necessary.

Post-It® Fax Note	7671	Date	12/18/98	# of pages	2
To	Joe Helfrich	From	Pete Hess		
Co./Dept	SLO - D06M	Co.	PFO - D06M		
Phone	(201) 538-5290	Phone #			
Fax #		Fax #			

Mr. Pete Hess
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Once again, your professionalism is greatly appreciated and you are an invaluable asset to the Division.
If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Johnny Pappas
Sr. Environmental Engineer

cc: J. Trackemas

Chrono: JP981201.LTR