

0005

Cyprus-Willow Creek Mining Corporation
Willow Creek Mine
December 2, 1998 Update

Post-it* Fax Note	7	Date	12/3/98	# of pages	2
To	Joe Helfrich		From	Pete Hess	
Co./Dept	SLO - DOGM		Co.	RFO - DOGM	
Phone #	538 - 5290		Phone #		
Fax #			Fax #		

ACT/007/028

#2

As everyone is aware, an underground mine fire erupted on November 25, 1998 between 7 and 8 p.m. in the D-1 longwall panel of the Willow Creek Mine. The documentation below is a brief synopsis of the activities which are being implemented by the permittee to combat the fire; this synopsis is not intended to be complete, as the activities involved in a situation like this would require multiple pages to explain and elaborate upon. The following is what I have been able to ascertain up to this point;

- 1) The four portals have been temporarily sealed by pushing imported dirt into same.
- 2) The U.S. Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration is in charge of the situation.
- 3) The mine site office buildings were initially evacuated during this crisis, but are now back in service. Approximately 200 employees have been transferred back to the Star Point Mine to increase output at that site. Temporary employees at Star Point have been laid off.
- 4) Cyprus is currently drilling three boreholes to monitor the underground atmosphere; the holes are located thus;
 - a) one hole in Dinosaur Canyon; this hole will intercept the D seam workings outby the D-2 longwall panel headgate entries.
 - b) the second hole is in Willow Creek Canyon on the way to Dinosaur Canyon. The pad can be seen from Highway 191. This will be an angle hole and is intended to intercept the D seam main entries outby the D-1 panel tailgate entries.
 - c) the third hole will be close to the D-1 panel degasification borehole which was approved by the Division through permitting action. This hole may also be used as an injection hole, as it will intercept the gob area of the D-1 panel where the fire erupted.
- 5) As of 12/2, the levels of the gases inherent in the Mine atmosphere look promising, and it is felt that the fire is out. However, Cyprus is continuing to drill the holes and intends on pumping nine million cubic feet of carbon dioxide into the mine to ensure extinguishment prior to unsealing. Injection is anticipated to begin on 12/3 or 12/4. Two CO2 storage tanks were observed on the ridge above Barn Canyon. A third is to be installed. A two inch steel pipe line has been installed along the BLM road in the area to convey the CO2 from the pump station to the hole mentioned in paragraph c) above.

Mr. Pappas informed me that he is in the process of reclaiming two drill pads which were misplaced during the initial frenzy. A crew was observed installing silt fences in small side drainages along Willow Creek down canyon from Dinosaur Canyon.

At this point, it is felt that Cyprus and MSHA have the situation well in hand. Mr. Pappas

has been informed that should there be any need in which the Division can be of assistance, to let us know.

This concludes my report.

Atter Ness

Rec Spec III

12/3/98

cc: Wensy Austin, OSM