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

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

September 11, 1998

Utah Coal Regulatory Program
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

Attention: Pete Hess

RE: Permit Modification, Install Water Line, Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation, Willow Creek Mine, ACT/007/0038, Carbon County, Utah

Dear Mr. Hess:

Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation (CPMC) would like authorization to install a water line, temporary but possibly permanent, on the surface and within the disturbed area boundary to convey water from Pond 001 to Pond 013, mainly, but with the option to convey water to other ponds in the vicinity of the pipeline (Ponds 12a and 12b) should the need arise.

The need to undertake this activity has come about with operation of the longwall. Now that the longwall is operating, water usage has increased in the mine for dust control and subsequently increased mine water discharge. Under our existing UPDES permit, Cyprus can discharge mine water to the receiving waters as long as the discharge meets effluent limitations. However, with the encountering of coal oils (hydrocarbons) Cyprus is hesitant to discharge any water from Pond 001 until it can be certain that all effluent limitations can be met and there is no toxicity to stream life. Any discharge will be approved by the Division of Water Quality.

The pipeline corridor is shown on the enclosed Map 18B. A pump will be submersed in Pond 001 to minimize the potential of drawing floating oils and transporting them to Pond 013. With respect to floating oils on Pond 001, to date Cyprus has spent over \$45,000.00 removing the oil from the pond's surface and is also spending \$1,900.00 per day on water trucks to haul water from Pond 001 to Pond 013. These efforts are being taken to ensure environmental protection and compliance on all fronts. Cyprus has determined that the waterline will pay for itself within 10 days and remove the congestion on the refuse pile haul road between Cyprus' refuse trucks and Nielson's water trucks.

Cyprus is requesting emergency authorization to install the 4-inch pipeline and will modify its mining and reclamation plan in the very near term accordingly to include the above mentioned activity. Hansen, Allen & Luce is finalizing the updates to the Willow Creek MRP and should have it to DOGM within the next week or two.

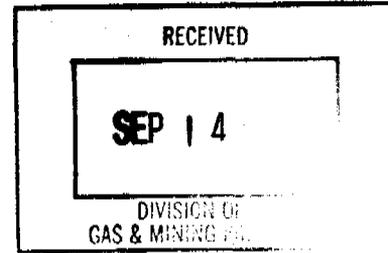
Your timely review and authorization would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Johnny Pappas
Sr. Environmental Engineer

Enclosures

File: WCENV.2.5.2.1.1.1
Chrono: JP980903.LTR



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