



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY

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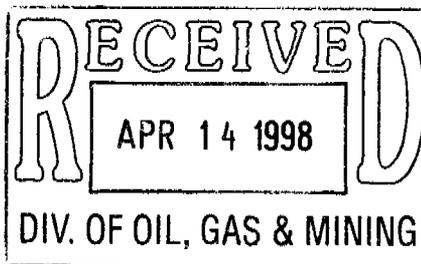
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Executive Director

Don A. Ostler, P.E.
Director



April 10, 1998

Johnny Pappas, Environmental Coordinator
Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation
P. O. Box PMC
Price, Utah 84501

Ken
Copy Sharon - Pete
ACT/003/038 #2

Dear Mr. Pappas:

Subject: Reconnaissance Inspection at Castle Gate/Willow Creek Coal Mine, UTG040012

On March 30, 1998, Mike Herkimer of the Division of Water Quality stopped by your facility to speak with you and Jack Trackemas concerning the permitting of your mine water (K-seam). Mike spent some time discussing options regarding TDS and toxicity of the K-seam water. It is my understanding that you have some questions regarding submission of discharge monitoring reports (DMRs) to EPA. EPA has agreed that it no longer wants copies of DMR's from minor facilities (which includes facilities under general permits) submitted to them, but only to the State of Utah. Therefore, Castle Gate/Willow Creek Mine is not required to submit DMR's to EPA, but only to the State of Utah.

If you have any questions or comments please give Mike Herkimer a call at 538-6058.

Sincerely,

Donald A. Hilden, Ph.D., Manager
Permits & Compliance Section

DAH:MDH:st

Enclosure

cc: **Sharon Falvey**, DOGM (W/encl)
Donna Inman, EPA Region VIII (W/encl)
Dave Ariotti, DEQ District Engineer (W/encl)
Claron D. Bjork, Southeastern Utah Dist. Health Dept. (W/encl)

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RECONNAISSANCE INSPECTION

UTG040012

March 30, 1998

Mike Herkimer of the Division of Water Quality, had a long discussion with Johnny Pappas and Jack Trackemas of Amax Coal Company, Castle Gate/Willow Creek Mine. In order to mine the Company must dewater the K-seam which would cause a discharge of TDS greater than 1 ton per day (major requirement of the general permit is a discharge of less than one ton per day). Therefore, an individual permit was applied for and is in the process of being issued. Two major problems stand in the way of an individual permit being issued. These are:

1. High TDS and flows in the mine water versus the tonnage limitations required by the salinity forum.
2. Toxicity in the mine water was discovered and must be controlled/eliminated before an individual permit is issued and a discharge occurs.

There was a question during the discussion regarding dilution of the effluent using Price River Water. Based on *R317-8-4.3(6)(b)* 3 dilution of effluent waters cannot be used as a substitute for treatment.