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

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October 1, 1998

To: File

Thru: Joe Helfrich, Permit Supervisor-Compliance *JH*

From: Peter Hess, Reclamation Specialist III *PH*

RE: Install Pond Water Transfer Line, Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation, Willow Creek Mine, ACT/007/038-98F, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

SUMMARY:

The interception of crude oils or hydrocarbons within the "D" seam mine workings at Willow Creek Mine has caused numerous problems, and the counter measures which have been taken to minimize or negate any environmental impacts have been numerous. The collection of these oils in the various mine sumps and their subsequent pumping to pond 001A (mine site surface facilities pond) has raised additional concerns and efforts necessary to prevent the unwanted discharge of hydrocarbon contaminated waters to the Willow Creek drainage, and thence the Price River. In order to prevent the discharge of hydrocarbon contaminated water from pond 001A to Willow Creek, the permittee has been pulling water from the bottom of the pond and transferring it to pond 013A via water truck. The cost to do this, according to Mr. Pappas, is in the area of \$2,000 per day. At a time when mining is erratic due to the combustible vapors liberated from the oils and high concentrations of methane inherent in the coal seam, high, un-needed costs are a critical liability. The installation of this proposed pumpline will help control costs, and reduce traffic on the School House Canyon refuse pile haul road, improving safety.

OPERATION PLAN:

MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference:R645-301-512.120 Surface Facilities and Operations Map

Analysis:

The permittee is proposing to run a four inch water transfer pump line from pond 001A to



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goal. A revised, certified Mine Surface Facilities map, drawing No. MAP 18B, showing Revision #4, (which shows the route the water line will be constructed through) has been submitted. There will be no new disturbance associated with this submittal; the water line will be routed on the surface through the conveyor tunnels to pond 013A. A "T" with valving will be installed to redirect the water from 013A to ponds 12A and 12B should the water level in 013A become excessive.

According to Mr. Pappas (based on a telephone conversation on 10/1/98), the water going into 001A has a TDS level of about 5,000 mg/l. Oil and grease levels continue to run above the maximum allowable limitation of 10 mg/l. Therefore, it is still necessary to run this water through a secondary pond to attempt to reach allowable effluent limitations for discharge.

Mr. Pappas is aware that the use of pond 013A for settling/treatment of this mine water can only be a temporary measure and that a contingency plan must be developed to return pond 013A to it's original intended use. Cyprus Plateau is working with the Utah Division of Water Quality to develop this plan; as details are worked out and implemented, 013A will be returned to it's sediment pond status.

Findings:

The submitted map is adequate to address the minimum regulatory requirements of the R645 rules.

IMPOUNDMENTS

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-742.220 et al.

Analysis:

The permittee will be using the sediment storage capacity (60% clean out level is 6196.4 feet) to store the transferred water from 001A. The permittee should install a marker on the embankment to show the maximum water level allowed in the event a 10 year 24 hour storm occurs. Discharge of water from 013A to other ponds, or through apparatus developed by the contingency plan mentioned above will occur at that time.

The water level in pond 013A is being monitored on a daily basis.

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RECLAMATION PLAN:

BONDING AND INSURANCE:

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-800. Bonding and Insurance

Analysis:

The recovery of the 4400 feet of four inch plastic pipe can be accomplished with a minimum amount of labor. As the line is on the surface, no machinery costs are necessary to recover same. No increase in bond amount is necessary to reclaim this line; it will be done in conjunction with the recovery of the conveyor belts, if in existence at that time. Mr. Pappas has indicated that the line is temporary. No one is sure of the life expectancy of this pumpline at this time.

Findings:

The installation of this line is a minor amendment. No adjustment in reclamation bond is necessary.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION:

The installation of this pumpline is a minor amendment that requires no adjustment in the bond amount for the Mine. The installation of this line is temporary, and is necessary to help treat mine water to the point it can be discharged to surface waters of the United States. It is recommended that ACT/007/038-98F be approved as submitted.

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