0023

# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

**INSPECTION REPORT**

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Partial: XXX Complete:__ Exploration:__
Inspection Date & Time: 9/10/98 / 10:30a.m.-3:30p.m.
Date of Last Inspection: 9/2/98

Mine Name: Willow Creek Mine County: Carbon Permit Number: ACT/007/038
Permittee and/or Operator's Name: Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation
Business Address: P. O. Drawer PMC, Price, Utah 84501
Type of Mining Activity: Underground XXX Surface__ Prep. Plant__ Other__
Company Official(s): Johnny Pappas
State Officials(s): Peter Hess Federal Official(s): None
Weather Conditions: Cool, Showers, 70's, Barometer 29.9"Hg
Existing Acreage: Permitted- 14,670 Disturbed- 132.9 Regraded-_ Seeded-_ Bonded- 132.9
Increased/Decreased: Permitted-___ Disturbed-___ Regraded-___ Seeded-___ Bonded-___
Status: _Exploration/ XXX Active/___Inactive/__Temporary Cessation/__Bond Forfeiture
Reclamation (__Phase I/__Phase II/__Final Bond Release/__Liability_____Year)

REVIEW OF PERMIT, PERFORMANCE STANDARDS & PERMIT CONDITION REQUIREMENTS

Instructions
1. Substantiate the elements on this inspection by checking the appropriate performance standard.
   a. For complete inspections provide narrative justification for any elements not fully inspected unless element is not appropriate to the site, in which case check N/A.
   b. For partial inspections check only the elements evaluated.
2. Document any noncompliance situation by referencing the NOV issued at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
3. Reference any narratives written in conjunction with this inspection at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
4. Provide a brief status report for all pending enforcement actions, permit conditions, Division Orders, and amendments.

| | | EVALUATED | N/A | COMMENTS | NOV/ENF |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 2. | SIGNS AND MARKERS | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 3. | TOPSOIL | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 4. | HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: | | | | |
| a. | DIVERSIONS | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| b. | SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| c. | OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| d. | WATER MONITORING | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| e. | EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 5. | EXPLOSIVES | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 6. | DISPOSAL OF EXCESS SPOIL/FILLS/BENCHES | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 7. | COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 8. | NONCOAL WASTE | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 9. | PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES | [XX] | ☐ | [XX] | ☐ |
| 10. | SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 11. | CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 12. | BACKFILLING AND GRADING | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 13. | REVEGETATION | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 14. | SUBSIDENCE CONTROL | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 15. | CESSATION OF OPERATIONS | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 16. | ROADS: | | | | |
| a. | CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/SURFACING | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| b. | DRAINAGE CONTROLS | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 17. | OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 18. | SUPPORT FACILITIES/UTILITY INSTALLATIONS | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 19. | AVS CHECK (4th Quarter-April, May, June)_____(date) | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 20. | AIR QUALITY PERMIT | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 21. | BONDING & INSURANCE | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

PERMIT NUMBER: **ACT/007/038** DATE OF INSPECTION: 9/10/98

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

9. PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES

At the request of Mr. Johnny Pappas, Senior Environmental Engineer, an underground tour of the D-1 longwall panel was scheduled to observe the flows of the hydrocarbon oils from the mine roof.

The following people were in attendance:

1) Mike Herkimer, Environmental Scientist, Surface Water, DWQ;
2) Jerry Jackson, Environmental Scientist, Ground Water, DWQ;
3) Johnny Greene, Manager of Environmental Affairs, Cyprus Coal;
4) Johnny Pappas, Senior Environmental Engineer, Cyprus Willow Creek;
5) Tom Hurst, P.E., Cyprus Willow Creek;
6) Steve Falk, Mining Engineer, BLM, PFO;
7) Pete Hess, Reclamation Specialist, DOGM, PFO

En route to the D-1 section, Mr. Hurst stopped at a pump room to show the DEQ/DWQ people some characteristics of the hydrocarbons. The tank that the mine water is pumped to appeared to have overtopped, for hydrocarbon oils were apparent on the floor of the pump room. The group was later informed by Mr. Vern Marvidakis, Section Foreman, that the hydrocarbons also flowed out of the coal floor in some areas. This may also account for the oils on the pump room floor.

As the group traveled into the longwall in the intake entry of the headgate, Mr. Pappas pointed out the ½ fifty-five gallon barrel that was being used as a catch drum for an oil drip from the mine roof. This was on the corner of a pillar where the roof had potted out. It is now obvious that these oils are not only coming out of the roof as the gob caves behind the longwall shields, but that they may appear anywhere in the roof or out of floor with no degree of predictability.

When the group finally arrived at the last open crosscut, we learned the U.S. Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration had placed an order on the longwall, shutting down all operations. All electrical power had been turned off. MSHA had done this due to a buildup of combustible gases (from the hydrocarbons as well as methane buildup) in the ventilation bleeders of the panel. Gas readings of 2.5 percent had been detected. Ventilation engineers for Cyprus are trying different methods to get these gas levels diluted to a safe level, so that coal production can be resumed.

With the MSHA order in place, it was not possible for the group to travel down the intake, inby the last open crosscut to observe what the Company had really wanted us to see.

According to Mr. Marvidakis, the gob is caving tight, which restricts the air flow over it, causing yet another problem for the Mine's forced air ventilation system.

We then traveled back outside where the group was shown the efforts that the permittee had taken up to this point to prevent environmental impacts from the oils. The DWQ personnel looked at the FRAC tank which had been installed in line with the mine water pumpline. This was still in operation, (see 9/2/98 inspection report).

**INSPECTION REPORT**
(Continuation sheet)



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With regard to the hydrocarbon issue, the seriousness of the problems related to same can be ranked as such:

1) Vapors from the hydrocarbons have the same effect as methane gas in a mine and gas detection instruments read them as combustible gases, which they are. This causes gas buildup in the bleeder entries (returns) and causes MSHA to enforce a "cease operations" order on all longwall coal production.

2) The two FRAC tanks which have been implemented on the surface are removing the hydrocarbons from the mine water. The transfer of water (pulled from the bottom of 001A pond) to 013A (MSHA pond) has caused a concern as to whether sufficient storage volume is available to contain the additional waters plus any runoff and sediment from the design storm (10 yr. 24 hr.). As of today, 013A still has sufficient capacity.

It is costing the permittee $2,000 a day to transfer 001A water by Nielsen truck to 013A. As mentioned in the 9/2/98 report, the permittee wants to install a pumpline to do this. Also, Mr. Pappas inquired of Jerry Jackson what would be required in order for the Mine to inject this water back into the "K" seam (old Kenilworth Mine works, which are already flooded to a great extent) through an injection well. Mr. Jackson informed Mr. Pappas that an engineering analysis regarding water volumes and other parameters would need to be performed by the permittee before a State permit could be granted to do same. The injection of either hydrocarbon contaminated water and/or clean water (oil free) are both being considered at this time.

This concludes this report.

Note: This inspection report does not constitute an affidavit of compliance with the regulatory program of the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining.

Copy of this Report:

Mailed to: Johnny Pappas (Plateau) Henry Austin (OSM)
Given to: Joe Helfrich (DOGM) Filed to: Price Field Office
Date: September 11, 1998

Inspector's Signature: Peter Hess #46
Peter Hess