



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

INSPECTION REPORT

Michael O. Leavitt
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Partial: XXX Complete: Exploration:
Inspection Date & Time: 8/31/98 / 10:00a.m.-2:00p.m.
Date of Last Inspection: 7/14/98

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, Mike Kelley
State Officials(s): Peter Hess Federal Official(s): None
Weather Conditions: Cool, Overcast, Possible Rain
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

- Substantiate the elements on this inspection by checking the appropriate performance standard.
 - 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.
 - For partial inspections check only the elements evaluated.
- Document any noncompliance situation by referencing the NOV issued at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
- Reference any narratives written in conjunction with this inspection at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
- 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. SIGNS AND MARKERS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. TOPSOIL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE:				
a. DIVERSIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. WATER MONITORING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. EXPLOSIVES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. DISPOSAL OF EXCESS SPOIL/FILLS/BENCHES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. NONCOAL WASTE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. BACKFILLING AND GRADING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. REVEGETATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. SUBSIDENCE CONTROL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. CESSATION OF OPERATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. ROADS:				
a. CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/SURFACING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. DRAINAGE CONTROLS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. SUPPORT FACILITIES/UTILITY INSTALLATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. AVS CHECK (4th Quarter-April, May, June) _____ (date)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. AIR QUALITY PERMIT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. BONDING & INSURANCE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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(Continuation sheet)

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(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

NOTE: The **breakup** and subsequent caving of the mine roof in by the roof support shields in the longwall is allowing hydrocarbon rich oils to seep into the Mine. This problem has been encountered in other area mines, namely Price River Coal #5 Mine ("D" seam in Sowbelly Canyon), and Sunnyside #1 Mine, 20th Left longwall panel. The nature of these oils is such that a very low flash point of about 70 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit occurs. This oil is quite volatile, and the odor of same is very obvious. The oil gels when placed in a refrigerator. The nature of the vapors is such that the methane monitoring devices used underground react the same as if they are in high concentrations of methane gas. Coal production is halted. The U.S. Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration is in charge of the situation underground at Willow Creek.

4b. **HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS**

As noted below, hydrocarbon contaminated mine water is being pumped to pond 001A, where the permittee is attempting to devise a means to extract the oils economically. Pond 001A should never discharge, as the permittee is transferring water from the bottom of the pond via truck to pond 013A. Pond 001A, the pond inlet and the ditch from Mine mouth to inlet are contaminated with residue from the hydrocarbons. Mr. Pappas is fully aware that some means to mitigate this impact must be devised and completed, once the hydrocarbon issue is solved. At this point in time, the permittee is inundated with hydrocarbon related problems, and time and cooperation must be allowed to work the issues out.

Pond 013A is being used to store water from 001A; there is no evidence (either residue or odor) of hydrocarbon contamination in 013A as of today's inspection.

4e. **HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS**

As noted below, the permittee is attempting to devise a means of collecting the hydrocarbon oils from the surface of pond 001A. Pacific West Environmental Consultants is looking at the issue. It is not known by what means the consultant will attempt to remove the oil. **It should be stressed that if dissolution of the oil is looked at, effluent limits must still be met prior to discharge of these waters off of the permit area.** The Division of Water Quality should be kept fully informed on all issues regarding the treatment of these oils. If flocculation is attempted and achieved, the permittee will need to look at the effective disposal of all residues.

7. **COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS**

Over the past weekend, (8/29-30/98), the permittee placed numerous piles of coal mine cleanup waste on the School House Canyon refuse pile. Several of these piles contained numerous pieces of noncoal waste (i.e., wood, water hose, rock dust hose, etc.). Mike Kelley, Surface Superintendent, was informed that all combustible materials from these piles must be removed prior to the leveling and compacting procedure. Mr. Kelley agreed to have the combustibles removed. This is also an MSHA requirement, (30 CFR 77.215 (g)).

9. **PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES**

As noted above, the Mine has encountered adverse geologic conditions inherent in the strata above the coal seam. As these oils flow from the gob, (they have about the same viscosity as water), they blend with the ground water and are pumped to the surface and go to pond 001A (surface facilities pond). When they reach the end of the pump line, the hydrocarbons re-coalesce on the surface of the flow. To date, the permittee has managed to vacuum several thousand gallons of these oils off of the surface on 001A.

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9. PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES -continued-

John Pappas has contracted Pacific West (they have done environmental cleanups for Union Pacific Railroad), to look at the pond water to determine if the oil can be removed safely and economically. In the interim, the permittee has taken the following action(s).

- 1) The two inch decant elbows on the 001A vertical riser (primary spillway) have been capped, to prevent outflow of the oils off the permit.
- 2) The permittee is pulling water off of the bottom of the pond 001A, and transferring it to pond 013A (School House Canyon refuse pile toe pond). There is no evidence of hydrocarbons in pond 013A as of today's inspection.
- 3) The permittee has informed DEQ, Division of Water Quality of the situation.

Mr. Pappas has verbally committed to cleanup all residue from these oils once the other numerous problems are corrected/alleviated.

The Price River Water Improvement District has installed an internal-combustion powered water pump inside the Price River stream buffer zone NNW of the rail loadout.

Mr. Kelley had the pump moved out of the buffer zone prior to the end of the inspection.

PRWID will need to extend the suction hose to the River if future use of this pump is necessary.

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 1, 1998

Inspector's Signature:  #46

Peter Hess