

0049

March 17, 1998

To: File

Thru: Joe Helfrich, Permit Supervisor-Compliance 

From: Peter Hess, Reclamation Specialist III

RE: Minor Coal Exploration, Barn Canyon and Dry Canyon, Cyprus Plateau Mining, Willow Creek Mine, ACT/007/038-98A, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

SUMMARY:

Cyprus is proposing three multiple angle holes in the Barn Canyon and Dry Canyon areas strictly for the purpose of obtaining geologic information. Two holes (P98-36-1 and P98-36-2) will be drilled in Barn Canyon; P98-36-2 will be drilled on a pre-SMCRA site (MC-016). The location of this hole is very close to Section 25, which is BLM ground. The proximity (the map is on a scale of 1" equals 500 feet) indicates that the hole will be ten feet or less from the Section 25 boundary.

To access hole P98-29-3 (Dry Canyon), it will be necessary to cross the waters of Willow Creek.

All roads to access the sites are pre-existing and will remain in place after the exploration has been completed. Roads which were widened to establish the drill pad will be reclaimed to the pre-existing roadway width.

Boreholes will be grouted for their entire depth.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

Analysis:

R645-200-100. - Minor Coal Exploration.

This submittal qualifies as a minor coal exploration amendment; less than 250 tons of coal will be extracted from the three boreholes.

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R645-201-200. - Notices of Intention to Conduct Minor Coal Exploration.

The permittee's notices of intent to conduct Minor Coal Exploration are adequate and provide all the information necessary as required by the R645 regulations.

R645-202-100. - Required Documents

The permittee will maintain copies of required documents at the drill sites as required by the R645 regulations.

R645-202-200. - Performance Standards

Performance standards, which are applicable to this minor coal exploration permit, have been adequately addressed, as required by the R645 regulations.

R645-301-800. - Bonding

The Willow Creek Mine is currently bonded for the amount of \$11,949,205. The permittee has indicated that this amount is sufficient to cover the reclamation costs of the three boreholes.

Findings:

The requirements of this section of the regulations are considered to be adequately addressed with regard to this minor coal exploration permit.

RECOMMENDATION:

The requirements of the R645 regulations regarding minor coal exploration have been adequately addressed. It is recommended that this amendment, ACT/007/038-98A be approved.