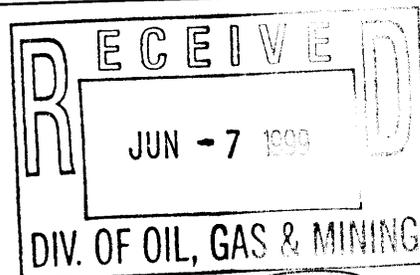




Willow Creek Mine
847 Northwest Highway 191
Helper, Utah 84526
(435) 472-0475
Fax: (435) 472-4780

June 3, 1999

Pete Hess
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
451 East 400 North
CEU Box 156
Price, Utah 84501



RE: Mine Ventilation Plan, Gob Vent Degasification Bore Holes, ACT/007/038, Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation, Willow Creek Mine, Carbon County, Utah *99B* *#2 copy*

Dear Mr. Hess:

Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation (CPMC) needs to install a network of gob vent degasification boreholes at its Willow Creek Mine as part of the overall ventilation and safety plan. In order for CPMC to perform this work, it must complete an environmental assessment (EA) on its proposed coal exploration and degasification plan not already authorized under the previous EA.

By needing to prepare a new EA and because of the time line for completion, review and findings, CPMC must reuse previously approved drill sites to drill multiple degasification boreholes in order to have enough degasification boreholes in place for the late 1999 and early 2000 longwall mining. Attached is a letter submitted to the BLM by CPMC's Geologist identifying the previously permitted sites authorized by the BLM.

CPMC is herewith providing the Division with the following Table 1 listing those sites and corresponding designation approved by the Division.

Table 1: Previously Approved Sites and Status

Proposed Site and Designation	Previous Designation	Original Plan Submittal Date	DOGM Approval Date	Existing Hole () /Pad on Site	Additional Proposed Holes
G1	97-30-5DG	10/24/97	4/28/98	97-30-5DG (1)	1
G2	98-30-8DG	8/29/98	10/1/98	98-30-8DG (1)	2
G3	97-30-2aDG	10/24/97	4/28/98	97-30-2aDG (1)	2
G4	P98-30-9DG	8/29/98	10/1/98	Not Drilled/No Pad	2
G5	P99-30-10DG	9/23/98	10/1/98	Not Drilled/No Pad	3
G7	97-30-4	BLM Expl. Hole	BLM Approval	97-30-4 (1)	4
G8	P99-30-11DG	9/23/98	10/1/98	Not Drilled/No Pad	3

Mr. Pete Hess
June 3, 1999
Page 2

As shown on Table 1, CPMC proposes to install anywhere from 1 to 4 additional holes on previously approved drill sites. CPMC will utilize existing sites to place either vertical or angle holes. By utilizing approved sites, CPMC will be able to provide a network of gob vent boreholes during the 1999 drilling season to facilitate the liberation of the methane encountered during the mining process.

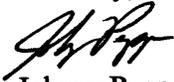
Drill site G7 or 97-30-4 was drilled as an exploration hole as approved by the BLM and currently houses the geophones and TDR cable used for our rock mechanics program. This is the only site not approved by the Division for use as a degasification borehole, but is approved by the BLM. CPMC is providing a copy of Map 30, Degassification Wells and Surface Facilities, submitted on September 23, 1998, and approved by the Division on October 1, 1998. CPMC has hand drawn in the location of exploration hole 97-30-4 along with its access road.

Therefore, based on the above information, CPMC would like to remob onto the previously approved sites once it receives authorization from the BLM which is anticipated by the end of June. If CPMC needs to submit any further permitting to the Division, a timely response would be appreciated.

The number of possible gob vent boreholes (17) necessary for the late 1999 and early 2000 longwall mining will need to be drilled between June 20 and November 1. This is a narrow window, so timeliness is critical for the drilling and subsequent mining to materialize.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (435) 472-4741.

Sincerely,



Johnny Pappas
Sr. Environmental Engineer

Enclosures

cc: Joe Helfrich w/enclosures



**CYPRUS PLATEAU
MINING CORPORATION**
A Cyprus Amax Company

Willow Creek Mine
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Mr. Don Stephens - Geologist
Bureau of Land Management, Price Office
125 So. 600 W.
Price, Utah 84501

Re: Willow Creek Exploration and Gob Vent Borehole 1999 Development Plan –
Previously Permitted Sites

Dear Don,

As we discussed this morning, a number of sites on the Federal Lease UTU-93975 above the first several D Seam longwall panels have already been permitted. A subset of these sites already have a completed hole. All of the sites, which are listed below in the Table, have a completed NEPA document associated. The principal change to the earlier plans will be the potential completion of **multiple** vent holes on each site pad. The following table indicates the previous impacts on each site and estimates the additional holes which may be needed. Depending on ventilation needs and mine plans, some holes may not be drilled.

Table : Previously Approved Sites and Status

Proposed Site Designation	Previous Designation	Orig. Plan Submittal Date	BLM Approval Date	Existing Hole/Pad on Site	Additional Proposed Holes for Site
<i>G1</i>	<i>97-30-5DG</i>	<i>10/22/97</i>	<i>10/29/97</i>	<i>97-30-5DG (1)</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>G2</i>	<i>98-30-8DG</i>	<i>9/22/98</i>	<i>9/30/98</i>	<i>98-30-8DG (1)</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>G3</i>	<i>97-30-2aDG</i>	<i>10/22/97</i>	<i>10/29/97</i>	<i>97-30-2aDG (1)</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>G4</i>	<i>P98-30-9DG</i>	<i>9/22/98</i>	<i>9/30/98</i>	<i>Not drilled/No Pad</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>G5</i>	<i>P99-30-10DG</i>	<i>9/22/98</i>	<i>9/30/98</i>	<i>Not drilled/No Pad</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>G7</i>	<i>97-30-4</i>	<i>6/13/97</i>	<i>6/29/97</i>	<i>97-30-4 (1)</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>G8</i>	<i>P99-30-11DG</i>	<i>9/22/98</i>	<i>9/30/98</i>	<i>Not drilled/No Pad</i>	<i>3</i>

Sincerely,

John Mercier
Geological Supervisor