



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

INSPECTION REPORT

Jph

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

Lowell P. Braxton
Division Director

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
PO Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801
801-538-5340
801-359-3940 (Fax)
801-538-7223 (TDD)

Partial:___ Complete: XXX Exploration:___
Inspection Date & Time: 1/11/99 / 9:30a.m.-4:00p.m.
Date of Last Inspection: 12/22/98

Mine Name: Willow Creek Mine County: Carbon Permit Number: ACT/007/038
Permittee and/or Operator's Name: Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation
Business Address: 847 Northwest Highway 191, Helper, Utah 84526
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: Clear, Cold, Some snow melt flowing in ditches
Existing Acreage: Permitted- 14,670 Disturbed- 206.7 Regraded-___ Seeded-___ Bonded- 206.7
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE:				
a. DIVERSIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. WATER MONITORING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. EXPLOSIVES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. DISPOSAL OF EXCESS SPOIL/FILLS/BENCHES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. BACKFILLING AND GRADING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. REVEGETATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. SUBSIDENCE CONTROL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. CESSATION OF OPERATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. ROADS:				
a. CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/SURFACING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. DRAINAGE CONTROLS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. SUPPORT FACILITIES/UTILITY INSTALLATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. AVS CHECK (4th Quarter-April, May, June)_____ (date)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. AIR QUALITY PERMIT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. BONDING & INSURANCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

Note: As of today's inspection, the rehabilitation of the underground workings is continuing. Mine rescue crews continue to enter under self contained breathing apparatus. The work is being directed by the U. S. Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration and Mr. Ron Parkin of the Utah State Industrial Commission.

Cyprus hopes to have the continuous miner sections producing coal by mid-February.

1. PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE

The review of the "as-built" submittal (ACT/007/038-98G) for the Mine is pending. The preliminary review of same has generated a great deal of concern by the various Division reviewers. A meeting between Cyprus and the Division is to be scheduled to address these concerns and the method to be utilized for same.

4a. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: DIVERSIONS

During today's field inspection, it became evident that there are some drainage concerns in the area of the clean coal stockpile reclaim tunnel portal and the two culinary water pump houses SW of the clean coal storage pile. The first concern is the lack of slope in the ditch which carries wash-down water from the reclaim portal and some runoff from the coal pile to pond 011A. The ditch does not efficiently convey water to the pond, and is more often than not frozen during this time of year. The second concern is that excessive moisture from the clean coal pile drains from same and runs down the sloped access road, to where it spreads out, and pools and freezes around the two pump houses. Although this same water eventually thaws and finds its way to the inlet ditch flowing to pond 011A, this drainage is essentially uncontrolled, (see R645-301-742.423.3). A slipping hazard has also been created in the pump house(s) area, which supply culinary water to both the Mine and the preparation plant, [see 30 CFR 77.205, paragraph (b), and (d)]. Mr. Mike Kelley, Surface Superintendent, was present during the inspection; he agreed to address these issues within the next twenty-four hours.

The reclaim portal drainage ditch mentioned above lacks adequate slope to effectively carry water to pond 011A; this slope problem prevails all along this same ditch until it reaches the pond. In consideration of this, it was suggested to Mr. Kelly that section of access road which runs past the clean coal stockpile and the loadout be sloped toward the east side (or away from the River) for its entire width; this would not only improve the road drainage but would make it possible to increase the slope of the inlet ditch to pond 011A. The permittee had planned on spending money for road base, as this area has been a problem due to poor drainage, and the tearing of the surface by dozer tracks for some time. The approval of ACT/007/038-98E will provide direct dozer access to the coal storage area across the Barn Canyon drainage from the preparation plant.

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4b. SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS

Fourth quarter impoundment inspections for the site were conducted by Mr. Johnny Pappas on December 4, 1998. Mr. Pappas did not report any unusual or hazardous conditions for ponds 001A, 002A, 011A, 012A, or 012B.

Mr. Roland Tallerico (Safety Department person dealing with MSHA) does the monthly inspections of pond 013A located at the toe of the School House Canyon refuse pile. On February 26, 1998 Cyprus received a variance from MSHA for a reduction in inspection frequency from once every seven days to once a month; this variance will terminate on 2/26/99, returning the frequency to weekly. The pond 013A inspections are timely; no signs of instability or other hazardous conditions have been reported, or noted during today's field inspection.

The fourth quarter and annual impoundment certification inspection of the site's numerous ponds was conducted by Mr. Dan Guy, P. E., Blackhawk Engineering Co., during the week of December 28, 1998. This report is still being compiled by Mr. Guy.

4d. WATER MONITORING

To date, no underground water monitoring points have been established at the Willow Creek Mine; no data is being missed during the recovery of the underground works.

Discharge monitoring reports for the months of October and November, 1998 were reviewed. None of the site's ponds discharged during these months. All submittals were timely.

The third quarter water monitoring report for the site was submitted to the DOGM SLO on November 18, 1998. Data submitted is reflective of samples which were taken during the months of July, August and September, 1998. CT&E of Huntington, Utah performs the analyses for Cyprus. Cation/anion balances run in the range of -3 to -5 percent, which is indicative of quality data.

7. COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS

A fourth quarter refuse pile inspection of the School House Canyon waste rock facility was conducted by Mr. Johnny Pappas on December 4, 1998. All piezometers were reported as being dry; there were no obvious signs of instability or other hazards reported.

Mr. Dan Guy conducted the annual refuse pile certification inspection during the week of December 28, 1998. Mr. Tom Hurst, P. E. at the site normally does this, but the recovery work associated with the Mine fire has greatly magnified his work load. A report of Mr. Guy's inspection was not available this day for review.

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In light of the fact that Mr. Johnny Pappas is now inspecting both impoundments and refuse piles during the course of his normal duties, it was suggested that he document the fact that he has received training from either a registered professional engineer experienced in the design of impoundments and waste rock facilities, or another individual who has been designated by the operator as "qualified" to inspect these types of facilities. As noted above, Mr. Roland Tallerico conducts the monthly inspections of pond 013A, which is the MSHA pond located at the toe of the School House Canyon refuse facility.

Documentation of Mr. Pappas' training may prevent an issue, should any problems arise with either the site's impoundments or the waste rock pile in the future. This would meet the requirements of 30 CFR 77.216-3, paragraph (4), and R645-301-514.330.

14. SUBSIDENCE CONTROL

Mr. Bruce T.S. Ware conducted the field survey to obtain data for the annual subsidence report for the site on December 20, 1998. This data is still being processed. Approximately 75% of the first longwall panel (D-1) in the Willow Creek Mine had been extracted prior to November 25, 1998.

19. AVS CHECK

Mr. Pappas submitted updated legal and financial information as part of the Willow Creek "as-built" submittal (ACT/007/038-98G) on December 7, 1998. This information has been forwarded to Ms. Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, DOGM SLO for verification. Upon confirmation, same will replace the current Exhibit 21 in Volume 14A.

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: January 19, 1999

Inspector's Signature:  #46
Peter Hess