



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210  
PO Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801  
(801) 538-5340 telephone  
(801) 359-3940 fax  
(801) 538-7223 TTY  
www.nr.utah.gov

Michael O. Leavitt  
Governor

Robert L. Morgan  
Executive Director

Lowell P. Braxton  
Division Director

October 30, 2002

Johnny Pappas, Sr. Environmental Engineer  
Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation  
P.O. Box 30  
Helper, Utah 84526-0030

Re: Abandonment of Equipment in Underground Mines, Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation, Willow Creek Mine, C/007/038, Outgoing File

Dear Mr. Pappas:

As you are aware, Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation notified the Division through correspondence dated September 3, 2002 of its intent to reclaim the surface facilities of the Willow Creek Mine. As documented in various inspection reports at that site, the extraction of underground mining apparatus has been ongoing for several months. Thus, it appears that the permanent sealing of the Willow Creek Mine is imminent.

An issue of concern that often occurs during a mine closure is the abandonment of equipment and machinery at the soon to be sealed mine. Abandonment of Mining Machinery must be authorized by the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining in accordance with the following regulations found in the 301 section of the R645 rules:

*747.100. Non coal mine waste, including but not limited to grease, lubricants, paints, flammable liquids, garbage, machinery, lumber and other combustible materials generated during coal mining and reclamation operations will be placed and stored in a controlled manner in a designated portion of the permit area or state-approved solid waste disposal area.*

*747.200. Placement and storage of Non coal mine waste within the permit area will ensure that leachate and surface runoff do not degrade surface or ground water.*

*747.300. Final disposal of Non coal mine waste within the permit area will ensure that leachate and drainage does not degrade surface or underground water.*

*750. Performance Standards.  
All coal mining and reclamation operations will be conducted to minimize disturbance to the Hydrologic balance within the permit and adjacent areas, to prevent material damage to the Hydrologic balance outside the permit*

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*area and support approved postmining land uses in accordance with the terms and conditions of the approved permit and the performance standards of R645-301 and R645-302.*

Although we encourage the removal of all equipment from the mine when possible and safe to do so, the Division has understood for several months that the longwall machinery existing in the #3 Panel of the "D" seam is to remain. However, other mining machinery, which will be sealed off must be reported to the Division. You are familiar with the underground certification process for material that are to be abandoned, as has been performed within the Star Point Mine, C/007/006.

Thus, prior to final abandonment, Division approval must first be obtained through the amendment process. You must provide the following documentation in accordance with the above-cited regulations to be incorporated as an amendment into the respective Mining and Reclamation Plan.

1. A map designating the final disposal location of the abandoned mining machinery.
2. A description of the equipment or machinery being abandoned and its condition upon abandonment.
3. A revision to the Probably Hydrologic Consequences (PHC) document which discusses the abandonment of the mining machinery and describes the potential for any Hydrologic impacts as a result of the abandonment.

Please be advised that this amendment must also include materials which will be abandoned within the shafts at the Crandall Canyon site.

This information should assist you in complying with the regulatory requirements. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,



Daron R. Haddock  
Permit Supervisor

an  
cc: Mary Ann Wright  
Pat Gubbins, BLM  
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