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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Oil Gas and Mining

JOHN R. BAZA
Division Director

November 16, 2007

Jerry D. Olds, State Engineer
Division of Water Rights
1594 West North Temple, Suite 220
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Subject: Public Outreach for the Evaluation of the Utah Coal Regulatory Program (Division of Oil, Gas and Mining & Federal Office of Surface Mining), Outgoing File

Dear Mr. Olds:

Thank you for your response to the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (OGM) and the Federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM) request for outreach topics. OSM and OGM (Evaluation Team) are currently selecting topics for Evaluation Year 2008 and have considered your suggestions. OSM's "REG-8" requires that oversight and topic selections review OGM's performance to ensure successful mine site reclamation, prevention of off site impacts and providing customer service to the public.

Item 1 in your letter suggests putting a summary of the permit or the permit itself on the web to be able to view modification or permit renewals. The Division now provides remote access for agencies to view files via a secure server. Please contact Pamela Grubaugh-Littig (PAMGRUBAUGHLITTIG@utah.gov) to request information about how to access this site.

Items 2 and 3 in your letter request continued close coordination as has occurred with SUFCO and Bear Canyon mines and when mines work adjacent to reservoirs. We also concur that our close coordination on these issues has been successful and need to continue. Marc Stilson has been instrumental in developing this coordination. Adherence to the MOU between Water Rights and OGM should ensure this practice.

Item 4 mentions the joint letter to Emery County water users clarifying water issues. OGM is pleased this joint letter worked out and agree that where warranted we should do so in the future.

Lastly, you suggest OGM consider requiring professional independent engineering firms to give objective analysis to ensure no long-term damaging impact from mining to water supply. This is a great suggestion if only OGM had the resources to do this. We have looked down this road before and do not have the mechanism to make mines pay, only to report to OGM.

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One of the evaluation topics selected for 2008 is to look at OGM's coordination with other State and Federal agencies when approving permanent water impoundment for a postmining land use. I anticipate that the Evaluation Team will be in contact with the Division of Water Rights as part of this review.

Again, thank you for responding to our request. If you need further clarification or wish to discuss these matters please don't hesitate to call (801) 538-5258.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan M. White".

Susan M. White
Mining Program Coordinator

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cc: Marc Stilson, Water Rights
Howard Strand, OSM
Mary Ann Wright, DOGM
Pam Grubaugh-Littig, DOGM
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