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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

April 6, 2011

General
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Mr. Allyn C. Davis
U. S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration
P. O. Box 25367
Denver, Colorado 80225

SUBJECT: March 10, 2011 Comment Letter, Evaluation of the Utah Coal Regulatory Program

Dear Mr. Davis:

Thank you for providing comments during our recent outreach effort. The Division of Oil, Gas and Mining is always striving to improve our relations and communications with other agencies and hope to continue our good working relationship with your office.

Your comment regarding oil and gas drilling in the vicinity of underground mines is certainly apropos. Our office has had internal discussions regarding this very issue. When our oil and gas section receives an application to drill near any mine site or on a coal lease, they are to notify our coal regulatory program so that we can evaluate the affect on any mines in the area. This situation is fairly rare, since the oil & gas developers try to avoid any active mining operations. Should we become aware of plans for an oil or gas well that would intercept an active mine; we will certainly notify your agency.

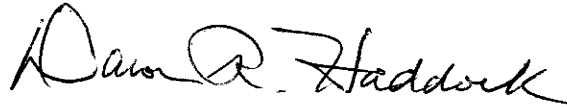
As for "orphan" impoundments, we are not aware of any Coal Regulatory situation where this would become an issue in the State of Utah. The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act requires all impoundments constructed after 1977 to be reclaimed or to be approved to remain as part of an alternate post-mining land use. In either case the impoundment would be taken care of and would not become an orphan.



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Allyn C. Davis
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Again, we thank you for your comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daron R. Haddock". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and "H".

Daron R. Haddock
Coal Program Manager

DRH/ss
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