



GARY R. HERBERT  
*Governor*

GREGORY S. BELL  
*Lieutenant Governor*

# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER  
*Executive Director*

### Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

JOHN R. BAZA  
*Division Director*

April 9, 2013

Mistic Christiansen, Mayor  
65 North Center Street  
P. O. Box 108  
Emery, UT 84522

Dear Mayor Christiansen:

Thank you for providing feedback to us during our recent outreach efforts. The input we received from you and others will help us improve our program and be more responsive to the needs of the citizens of Utah. This letter is intended as a response and to let you know that the Division and OSM have considered your comments while we are developing our action plans for the upcoming evaluation year.

You have expressed concerns about protection of the watershed above the SUFCO mine which is the source of water for the town of Emery. We understand and share your concerns. You suggest that more comprehensive testing and monitoring occur above and around the mining operations. You might already know that the Division requires the mine to conduct a fairly rigorous and ongoing water monitoring program that looks at both surface and groundwater. The data collected is available on our website. We will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of the monitoring and will require additional testing if it is warranted. In addition, the Division and OSM plan to conduct an in-depth technical review during the upcoming evaluation year to investigate the Division's review and implementation of the SUFCO mine's water monitoring program. This will likely be focused on the permit and adjacent areas of the mine.

You have also indicated a need to have more specific language that spells out the responsibilities of the mining operation should water resources be disrupted. Our rules at R645-301-731.530 make clear that the permittee will promptly replace any State-appropriated water supply that is contaminated, diminished or interrupted by coal mining activities. We take the requirements of this rule very seriously and will enforce it as necessary. We have already required the company to provide replacement water as mitigation for water impacts at the North Water springs area.



Lastly, the Bureau of Land Management is currently producing an Environmental Impact Statement that should address the impacts associated with water issues associated with the Greens Hollow tract which is being considered for leasing. Once a draft of the EIS is released, the public will have the opportunity to comment and provide input on that process. We encourage you to participate by providing comments to the BLM at that time. Of course, there will be additional opportunities to provide input to the Division for any future permitting actions should a lease be issued and a permit applied for.

We hope this information is helpful to you. We appreciate your willingness to provide input to our Evaluation Process.

Sincerely,



Daron R. Haddock  
Coal Program Manager

DRH/sqs  
cc: Howard Strand, OSM  
o:\evaluation\outreach\ey14\responses\christiansen letter.docx