



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING

Reclamation and Enforcement

BROOKS TOWERS

1020 15TH STREET

DENVER, COLORADO 80202

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

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SEP 9 1981

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SEP 14 1981

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

Mr. Leland C. Spencer
Reclamation Engineer
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
1588 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

SEP 11 1981

LCS

Dear Lee:

In response to your memorandum dated August 11 to John Nadolski of my staff, I feel that there is a need to clarify SMCRA responsibilities for mine water discharge. Under UMC (and 30CFR) 817.42, mine water discharge (which does not meet effluent limitations) must be passed through a sedimentation pond. Under OSM's proposed regulations (see attachment), more discretion is given toward "alternate control methods". However, in either case, control of mine water discharge is a requirement of SMCRA (Section 516(b)(9)(A)(ii)). Therefore my staff has taken the liberty to review the modification.

Based upon the review of the information you forwarded and the information in the mining and reclamation plan, I find that the proposed modification of the pond is acceptable; however, if the pond discharge fails to meet effluent limitations, then the pond may have to be further modified.

If you have any questions in regard to this review, please contact John Nadolski of my staff.

Sincerely,

DONALD A. CRANE

Attachment

Dean Hunt, OSM, Wash., D.C.
Rob Walline, EPA, Region VIII

TOM:
TO HANDLE