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STATE OF UTAH  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS, AND MINING  
1588 West North Temple  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116  
(801) 533-5771

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January 8, 1981

Mr. Trevor Whiteside  
Senior Mining Engineer  
Valley Camp of Utah, Inc.  
Scofield Route  
Helper, Utah 84526

RE: Discharge of Filter  
Pond Overflow at Belina  
ACT/007/001

Dear Mr. Whiteside:

On the 8th of December, 1980, it was observed by State and Federal officials along with Ed Foust that an overflow discharge was occurring from your mine discharge sediment filter pond at Belina. As you know, this water is not of adequate quality to allow its discharge into the receiving waters since it bypasses the treatment system. No samples were taken at this time, but it was observed that the water was turbid in nature. Prior to our inspection on the 10th of December, this discharge had ceased. On that day, all discharge was from the lower pipe, thus having had the benefit of treatment. The snow below the overflow pipe, however, was dark colored due to the untreated discharge. This type of discharge should be prevented.

According to the language of your permit, you are required to take all reasonable steps in order to prevent this type of discharge. If this type of discharge should occur, you are obligated to notify the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) since it is a bypass and as such is not covered by your permit. Only in cases where life of property are endangered or in the event of a 10-year, 24-hour event are you allowed to bypass the treatment system. This discharge should have been reported within five days and the following information should have been provided:

1. Description of the point source, including its location and nature of the discharge.
2. Length of time the discharge occurred.
3. Measures you will employ to prevent any future similar occurrences.

Mr. Trevor Whiteside  
ACT/007/001  
January 8, 1981  
Page two

Please be advised that you are liable to be served with a violation as a result of this type of discharge as provided in MC 717.17. Mr. Roger Frenette of the EPA has been notified of this recent occurrence. Although the State is not writing a violation at this time, if this is observed during an inspection, you will be considered in violation. The EPA does consider this discharging without a permit.

As you indicated in your November 4, 1980, letter to Mr. Frenette of the Region VIII EPA, pond modifications were in order, since you had significantly increased the volume of discharge having encountered two faults within the mine.

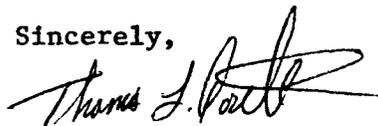
Mr. Hedberg has informed me that you mentioned to him your intent to attempt control of this water underground, and to use flocculents to cut down on your TSS. I was also informed of the possibility that the interception of this water may not be a permanent problem since often the flow of the groundwater decreases with time and can cease altogether.

In the event that none of the above circumstances free you of the problem, you will need to submit plans. Mr. Hedberg of the Division requested plans for any modifications which you find necessary and set a December 19, 1980, deadline.

As of December 8, 1980, you have an extension to such time as you are finished with these plans.

It is apparent from your record, that if your attempt at controlling the water underground does not meet with success, you will be forced to redesign your pond. It is important that you are prompt in setting a deadline to evaluate your attempt to control this water underground and make a final decision. Please be informed that you must have any plan approved prior to initiating any construction activity. I'm sure you are aware of the lag time between a submittal and its approval. I'm confident that you share my desire to avoid either a paperwork violation or a discharge violation, and can appreciate the need to act in the near future.

Sincerely,



THOMAS L. PORTLE  
RECLAMATION OFFICER

cc: Tom Ehmett, OSM  
Wayne Hedberg ✓  
Jim Smith  
Roger Frenette, EPA

TLP/btm