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January 8, 1981

Mr. Roger Frenette  
Enforcement Division  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Region VIII  
1860 Lincoln Street  
Denver, Colorado 80295

RE: Mine Water Discharge  
From Filter Pond at  
Valley Camp, Belina Mine  
ACT/007/001  
NPDES (No. 0022985)

Dear Mr. Frenette:

On December 31, 1980, I talked with Bob Burns concerning the above-mentioned minesite. I requested information about the NPDES permit and its conditions. As per his request, I have written to provide you with the details of our conversation.

In the course of their mining activities, Valley Camp has encountered two faults resulting in a "considerable increase" of mine water discharge at the Belina #1 Mine as Mr. Whiteside has informed you in a letter dated November 4, 1980. He also reported a violation of the NPDES permit and suggested a method (pond enlargement and inlet pipe relocation) as a way to alleviate this problem.

The mine discharge is treated by means of a two section filter pond with two outlet pipes. The lower pipe discharges water which has been allowed time to settle and pass through a rock filter. The upper outlet pipe is an emergency overflow pipe.

During the course of a meeting between Valley Camp of Utah's official, Mr. Ed Foust, and OSM and State regulatory officials on December 8, 1980, a bypass discharge was observed.

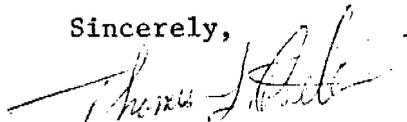
Mr. Roger Frenette  
ACT/007/001  
January 8, 1981  
Page two

This nonfiltered discharge can be considered "discharging without a permit" since only the lower pipe is covered under their permit. The responsibility of reporting this type of discharge lies with the operator and to my knowledge, this was not done.

The mine was given a regular state inspection on December 10, 1980. The overflow pipe was inactive at this time. There was clear evidence of the overflow discharge since the snow below the pipe has refrozen and was very dark at the time of the inspection. Photos of both the actual discharge and the darkened snow following the discharge are available.

Valley Camp has been notified that you were informed and of possible enforcement action by the State. If you have any questions, please contact myself or Wayne Hedberg.

Sincerely,



THOMAS L. PORTLE  
RECLAMATION OFFICER

cc: Wayne Hedberg  
Tom Ehmett, OSM  
Trevor Whiteside, Valley Camp

TLP/btm