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May 20, 1981

Mr. Trevor Whiteside
Senior Mining Engineer
Valley Camp of Utah, Inc.
Clear Creek, Utah 84517

Re: Emergency Discharge from
Sedimentation Pond
Belina Mine
ACT/007/~~007~~ 001
Carbon County, Utah

Dear Mr. Whiteside:

I am sending this letter in response to our meeting on May 14, 1981 at your Scofield office. At that time, I informed you that I would draft a letter and send it to you outlining specific Division concerns as a result of our phone conversation dated April 16, 1981. On that date, Valley Camp of Utah requested emergency approval to discharge runoff water from the lower sedimentation pond at the Belina mine site based upon the following:

1. Due to the unusual weather conditions at the mine site, (ie., warm weather, repetitive precipitation events and melting snow-pack) the impounded volume was approaching maximum capacity and consequently would not provide adequate storage for a 10 year-24 hour event.
2. Valley Camp anticipated continued precipitation according to local forecasting (??), and deemed it necessary to discharge in order to provide for the required storage. The company proposed using a pump to decant the impounded water down to the required level and to utilize straw filters and collect composite samples for quality analysis.

Based upon these conditions the Division granted an emergency approval with the following requests:

1. That Valley Camp direct a letter to State Health (Water Pollution Control), EPA, and this Division explaining the circumstances of the emergency situation, how the company was handling the problem and how this condition could be avoided in the future.

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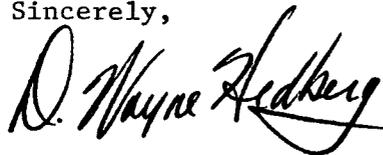
2. Valley Camp should forward copies of the water analysis when available, to all appropriate state and federal agencies.

At the time of our phone conversation, the Division was under the assumption that all discharge from said pond was covered under an EPA-N.P.D.E.S. permit. The Division has since been informed that this is not the case and that the pond was designed for total containment. Construction design of this pond provides a decanting pipe for the 10 year-24 hour design storm. As such, this constitutes a point-source discharge which should be permitted. An exemption for discharges in excess of the design storm is generally incorporated into the NPDES permit. Discharges not permitted by EPA, may be liable for a fine of \$10,000.

The Division strongly recommends that Valley Camp consider applying for an NPDES permit to cover discharges from this impoundment to avoid the possibility of placing themselves in a potential fining situation. It should also be understood that the approval granted to discharge under said emergency, does not necessarily constitute approval for similar future situations.

If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to call.

Sincerely,



D. WAYNE HEDBERG
RECLAMATION HYDROLOGIST

cc: Don Crane, OSM

DWH/bb