



STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Oil, Gas & Mining

Scott M. Matheson, Governor
Temple A. Reynolds, Executive Director
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4241 State Office Building • Salt Lake City, UT 84114 • 801-533-5771

January 25, 1984

Mr. Walt Swain, Utah Coordinator
Western Technical Center
Office of Surface Mining
Brooks Towers
1020 Fifteenth Street
Denver, Colorado 80202

RE: Stream Classification
Valley Camp of Utah, Inc.
Belina Complex
ACT/007/001, Folder No. 13
Carbon County, Utah

Dear Walt:

As per your request the Division has studied information pertaining to Whiskey Gulch so that its classification (intermittent or ephemeral) can be established for mining purposes. Stream classification is dependent on the duration of stream flow in response to precipitation. The Division determination of stream classification rests on the interpretation of the definitions established in the regulations.

The regulations defining ephemeral and intermittent streams are as follows:

Ephemeral stream means a stream which flows only in direct response to precipitation in the immediate watershed or in response to the melting of a cover of snow and ice, and which has a channel bottom that is always above the local water table.

Intermittent stream means a stream or reach of a stream that is below the local water table for at least some part of the year, and that contributes to the stream and obtains its flow from both surface runoff and ground water discharge.

The hydrograph submitted by Valley Camp illustrates that flows in Whiskey Gulch occur through several months during the year. The Surface Geology map prepared for Valley Camp by Vaughn Hansen Associates show a fault (the O'Conner Fault) bisecting Whiskey Gulch. This information as well as a report by the USGS (Waddel, K. M., et al., 1983 Hydrology of the Price River Basin, Utah, with Emphasis on Coal Mining Areas, USGS Open File Report 83-208) is interpreted to mean that the stream in Whiskey Gulch is a gaining stream which acquires its source from ground water emanating from secondary porosity along the fault and from the Star Point Sandstone. Since this interpretation delineates a stream that lies below a water table, the Division has no alternative but to declare the stream in Whiskey Gulch an intermittent stream.

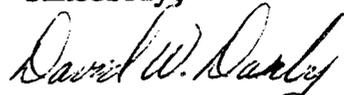
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To comply with the performance standards established under UMC 817.57, Valley Camp should submit a request for a variance along a stream buffer zone.

The Division anticipates that dissipation along Whiskey Gulch prior to implementation of the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act can be waived if no adverse impacts exist.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me anytime.

Sincerely,



David W. Darby
Reclamation Hydrologist

DWD/jvb

cc: John Nadolski, Engineering Science