



0062 United States Department of the Interior

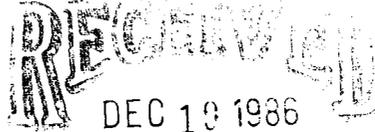
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING

Reclamation and Enforcement

BROOKS TOWERS

1020 15TH STREET

DENVER, COLORADO 80202



DEC 17 1986

Dr. Dianne Nielson, Director
Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

Dear Dr. Nielson:

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Western Field Operations (OSMRE) has completed a mid-term review of the Belina permit, UT-013 (State permit ACT/007/001), and administrative record on file at our office. OSMRE has notified the Albuquerque Field Office, Bureau of Land Management at both the State and District Offices, and the Forest Service Office for the Manti-La Sal National Forest. Any comments received from these agencies will be forwarded to your office.

The Albuquerque Field Office is aware that Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining (DOGGM) may be conducting a field inspection soon. Please contact the Albuquerque Field Office regarding the schedule of your site visit.

The January 28, 1986, letter from Utah DOGM to Valley Camp of Utah, Inc. outlines the status of permit conditions following a meeting between company and State representatives held on July 22, 1985. OSMRE's mid-term review has identified the following concerns regarding permit conditions.

Federal permit conditions numbers 2, 4, 7 (part 3), and 8 have been satisfied. Permit condition number 1 addresses surface-water and ground-water monitoring. This condition was discussed during the July 22, 1985, meeting and the preferred resolution strategy proposed as a result of the meeting is outlined in the January 28, 1986 Utah DOGM letter. OSMRE's administrative files indicate that this condition has not been satisfied. Resolution of this condition needs to be clarified.

Permit condition number 3 regarding the development of an in-mine ground water monitoring program was last discussed in Utah DOGM's January 28, 1986 letter. That letter discusses the need for a meeting between company officials and Utah DOGM representatives to discuss the new water monitoring guidelines as they concern conditions numbers 1 and 3. OSMRE's administrative record does not contain correspondence concerning the outcome of this planned meeting. The resolution of this condition also needs to be clarified.

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Permit conditions numbers 5 and 6 were discussed in the November 14, 1986, letter from OSMRE to Utah DOGM. This letter explained deficiencies in Valley Camp of Utah's response to these conditions. Valley Camp of Utah needs to submit a substitute topsoil redistribution plan and needs to design and implement appropriate field trials using final reclamation seed mixes.

Permit condition number 7 has five parts relevant to the monitoring of wetland and riparian areas in the subsidence area. This condition has been addressed in part in several letters within the administrative record. OSMRE understands that part 3 was satisfied on June 3, 1986, but parts 1, 2, 4, and 5 of this condition have not been satisfied.

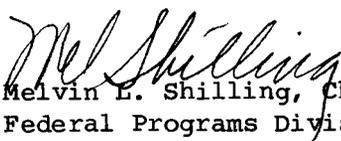
Permit condition number 9, regarding reclamation of the haul road, has not been satisfied according to OSMRE's records. This condition was last referenced in Utah DOGM's January 28, 1986 letter to Valley Camp of Utah.

The Albuquerque Field Office indicates that inspections conducted at the mine have identified problems associated with final drainage control from the portal haul road, where it meets Eccles Creek. Snow storage practices are thought to have contributed to this problem. A revision to the permit is needed to address this problem.

Compliance with the Endangered Species Act has been completed and is documented in a letter from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, dated February 26, 1986. No net water depletion from the Upper Colorado River Basin was predicted and no contribution to the endangered fishes conservation fund was required. There is no reason to indicate that changes to the projected net depletion estimate are warranted at this time; therefore, no further consultation is required.

Should you have any questions regarding these comments please contact Vernon Maldonado or Richard Holbrook at (303) 844-2451.

Sincerely,


Melvin L. Shilling, Chief
Federal Programs Division

cc: R. Hagen, AFO