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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING

Reclamation and Enforcement

BROOKS TOWERS

1020 15TH STREET

DENVER, COLORADO 80202

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

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DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

Mr. James Smith Jr.
Coordinator of Mined Land Development
Utah, Department of Natural
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
1588 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84116

Dear Mr. Smith:

This office has reviewed Price River Coal Company's addition to the Sediment Pond plans for Hardscrabble and Sowbelly Canyons submitted August 18, 1980. These additions were in response to my June 2, 1980 deficiency letter to Mr. Ron Daniels of your office. After reviewing this information, we have the following comments and recommendations.

Even though all ponds are incised, it must still be shown that spillways can safely discharge the peak runoff from a 25 year-24 hour event. Dimensions and surface materials of spillways and where water is to be discharged must be submitted. Cross sections of diversion ditches and calculations showing that they are correctly sized should be included. A certification by a registered professional engineer must be submitted showing that the ponds were built as designed and that the ponds are stable. Plans for any future sediment ponds must be certified by a registered professional engineer. We recommend that staff gauges be installed to determine when sediment needs to be removed from the ponds.

The Office of Surface Mining cannot approve the sediment pond plans for Hardscrabble and Sowbelly Canyons until the above concerns are addressed. If you have any questions, please contact Marianne Adams or John Nadolski of my staff at (303) 837-3773. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

DONALD A. CRANE

cc: Trippe, USGS, Denver
Smith, DOGM, SLC
Wicks, BLM, SLC
Hutchinson, Price River Coal Co.