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**CASTLE
GATE**
COAL COMPANY

AC 1007/004 Mine file
See Summary

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OCT 14 1986

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

October 9, 1986

Mr. David R. Ariotti, P.E.
District Engineer
Department of Health
6th East Main St.
P. O. Box 800
Price, UT 84501

Dear Mr. Ariotti:

During the recent major storm events that occurred in the area last week, some leakage in the sediment ponds at the Castle Gate Preparation Plant was noted.

Normally, the sediment ponds numbers 11 and 12B are dry, but during the storms last week, the basins filled to about four foot of depth. This is about half the design capacity for the ponds. The leakage in Basin 11 was about three gallons/minute, and Basin 12B had about one gallon/minute loss. All leakage was through the primary spillway. No structural damage to earthen portions of the ponds could be detected.

In my opinion the leakage is through the secondary decant system which consists of a manually operated butterfly valve. I propose to remove the valve decant system and use only the existing primary drop inlet structure.

I can find no regulation which requires the manually operated decants. The manual decant originally was designed to release water from a storm event after settling in the pond for 24 hours, as required by remanded DOGM regulation 817.46(d). This is no longer a valid regulation.

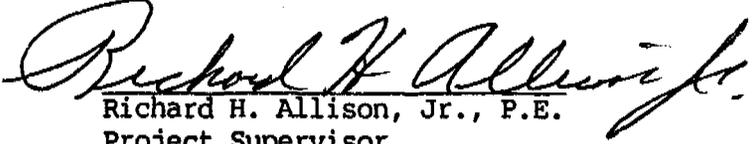
In my opinion, the ponds are oversized. The volume in them exceeds the 10 year/24 hour storm runoff capacity. In fact, Wednesday, September 24th, my rain gauge measured 1.9 inches in 24 hours which is a 10 year/24 hour storm event. The ponds were only half full at that time and would not have discharged had it not been for the leakage through the valves.

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Mr. David Ariotti
October 9, 1986
Page - 2

I would like to meet with you to show you the ponds and discuss the repair. With your and the Division of Oil, Gas and mining's permission, I would like to begin repairs next week.

Sincerely,


Richard H. Allison, Jr., P.E.
Project Supervisor

RHA:sk

cc: David Miller
Lowell Braxton (DOGM)
John McCurdy

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