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# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

355 West North Temple  
3 Triad Center, Suite 350  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203  
801-538-5340

April 14, 1992

CERTIFIED RETURN RECEIPT  
P 074 979 213

Mr. Richard H. Allison, Jr. P.E.  
Amax Coal Company, Belle Ayr Mine  
2273 Bishop Road  
P.O. Box 3005  
Gillette, Wyoming 82717-3005

Dear Mr. Allison:

Re: Proposed Assessment for State Violation No. N92-28-1-1, Amax Coal Company, Castle Gate Mine, ACT/007/004, Folder #5, Carbon County, Utah

The undersigned has been appointed by the Board of Oil, Gas and Mining as the Assessment Officer for assessing penalties under R614-401.

Enclosed is the proposed civil penalty assessment for the above-referenced violation. The violation was issued by Division Inspector, Daron R. Haddock on March 9, 1992. Rule R614-401-600 et. sec. has been utilized to formulate the proposed penalty. By these rules, any written information which was submitted by you or your agent, within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the Notice of Violation, has been considered in determining the facts surrounding the violation and the amount of penalty.

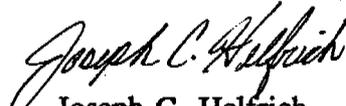
Under R614-401-700, there are two informal appeal options available to you:

1. If you wish to informally appeal the fact of this violation, you should file a written request for an Informal Conference within 30 days of receipt of this letter. This conference will be conducted by the Division Director. This Informal Conference is distinct from the Assessment Conference regarding the proposed penalty.

2. If you wish to review the proposed penalty assessment, you should file a written request for an Assessment Conference within 30 days of receipt of this letter. If you are also requesting a review of the fact of violation, as noted in paragraph 1, the Assessment Conference will be scheduled immediately following that review.

If a timely request for review is not made, the fact of violation will stand, the proposed penalty(ies) will become final, and the penalty(ies) will be due and payable within thirty (30) days of the proposed assessment. Please remit payment to the Division, mail c/o Vicki Bailey.

Sincerely,

  
Joseph C. Helfrich  
Assessment Officer

jbe  
Enclosure  
cc: Bernie Freeman, OSM

**WORKSHEET FOR ASSESSMENT OF PENALTIES  
UTAH DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING**

COMPANY/MINE Amax Coal Company/Castle Gate Mine

NOV #N92-28-1-1

PERMIT # ACT/007/004

VIOLATION 1 OF 1

ASSESSMENT DATE 04/13/92

ASSESSMENT OFFICER Joseph C. Helfrich

**I. HISTORY MAX 25 PTS**

- A. Are there previous violations which are not pending or vacated, which fall within 1 year of today's date?

ASSESSMENT DATE 04/13/92

EFFECTIVE ONE YEAR TO DATE 04/13/91

PREVIOUS VIOLATIONS	EFFECTIVE DATE	POINTS
<u>N91-18-1-1</u>	<u>12/21/91</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>N91-28-2-1</u>	<u>12/21/91</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>C91-18-1-1</u>	<u>04/05/92</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>C91-38-1-1</u>	<u>04/05/92</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>N91-39-10-1</u>	<u>01/19/92</u>	<u>1</u>

1 point for each past violation, up to one year;  
5 points for each past violation in a CO, up to one year;  
No pending notices shall be counted.

**TOTAL HISTORY POINTS 13**

**II. SERIOUSNESS (either A or B)**

**NOTE:** For assignment of points in Parts II and III, the following applies. Based on the facts supplied by the inspector, the Assessment Officer will determine within which category, the Assessment Officer will adjust the points up or down, utilizing the inspector's and operator's statements as guiding documents.

Is this an Event (A) or Hindrance (B) violation? Event

A. Event Violations Max 45 PTS

1. What is the event which the violated standard was designed to prevent?  
Damage to Property, Conducting Activities Without Appropriate Approvals, and Environmental Harm.
  
2. What is the probability of the occurrence of the event which a violated standard was designed to prevent? Unlikely

... PROBABILITY	RANGE
... None	0
... Unlikely	1-9
... Likely	10-19
... Occurred	20

**ASSIGN PROBABILITY OF OCCURRENCE POINTS** 4

**PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION OF POINTS**

Spillways in Pond 12-B had been removed. Had a large storm event occurred, the pond embankment could have failed causing damage to property and the environment, the probability of which is deemed unlikely.

3. What is the extent of actual or potential damage? RANGE 0 - 25\*

\*In assigning points, consider the duration and extent of said damage or impact, in terms of area and impact on the public or environment.

**ASSIGN DAMAGE POINTS** 0

**PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION OF POINTS**

No damage occurred as a result of the violation.

**B. Hindrance Violations MAX 25 PTS**

1. Is this a potential or actual hindrance to enforcement? \_\_\_\_\_ RANGE 0 - 25

Assign points based on the extent to which enforcement is actually or potentially hindered by the violation.

**ASSIGN HINDRANCE POINTS** \_\_\_\_\_

## PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION OF POINTS

TOTAL SERIOUSNESS POINTS (A or B) 4**III. NEGLIGENCE MAX 30 PTS**

- A. Was this an inadvertent violation which was unavoidable by the exercise of reasonable care? **IF SO - NO NEGLIGENCE;**  
 OR Was this a failure of a permittee to prevent the occurrence of a violation due to indifference, lack of diligence, or lack of reasonable care, or the failure to abate any violation due to the same? **IF SO - NEGLIGENCE;**  
 OR Was this violation the result of reckless, knowing, or intentional conduct? **IF SO - GREATER DEGREE OF FAULT THAN NEGLIGENCE.**

... No Negligence	0
... Negligence	1-15
... Greater Degree of Fault	16-30

STATE DEGREE OF NEGLIGENCE Greater Degree of FaultASSIGN NEGLIGENCE POINTS 18

## PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION OF POINTS

The inspector's statement revealed that this pond was also the subject of a portion of a previous violation. Work had recently been completed on it when additional activity created the existing violation. Sharon Falvey, DOGM Hydrologist, had been communicating with the consultant regarding work to be done on the pond as of October 18, 1991.

**IV. GOOD FAITH MAX 20 PTS. (EITHER A or B) (Does not apply to violations requiring no abatement measures.)**

- A. Did the operator have onsite the resources necessary to achieve compliance of the violated standard within the permit area?  
 ... **IF SO - EASY ABATEMENT**  
 Easy Abatement Situation
- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| ... Immediate Compliance                              | -11 to -20* |
| ... Immediately following the issuance of the NOV)    |             |
| ... Rapid Compliance                                  | -1 to -10*  |
| ... (Permittee used diligence to abate the violation) |             |

