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State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Michael O. Leavitt
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Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203
801-538-5340
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801-538-5319 (TDD)

January 9, 1996

CERTIFIED RETURN RECEIPT
P 074 979 424

John Pappas
Sr. Environmental Engineer
AMAX Coal Company
P. O. Drawer PMC
Price, Utah 84501

Re: Proposed Assessment for State Violation No. 95-41-3-1, AMAX Coal Company, Castle Gate Mine, ACT/007/004, Folder #5, Carbon County, Utah

Dear Mr. Pappas:

The undersigned has been appointed by the Board of Oil, Gas and Mining as the Assessment Officer for assessing penalties under R645-401.

Enclosed is the proposed civil penalty assessment for the above-referenced violation. The violation was issued by Division Inspector, Paul B. Baker on January 4, 1996. Rule R645-401-600 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 the penalty.

Under R645-401-700, there are two informal appeal options available to you:

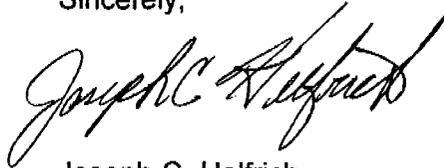
1. If you wish to informally appeal the fact of this violation, you should file a written request for an Informal Conference within 30 days of receipt of this letter. This conference will be conducted by the Division Director. This Informal Conference is distinct from the Assessment Conference regarding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

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JAN 10 10 45 AM
801-538-5319

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ACT/007/004
January 8, 1996

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

mt
Enclosure
cc: James Fulton, OSM
a:007004.pal

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

COMPANY/MINE AMAX Coal Company / Castle Gate Mine

NOV #N-95-41-3-1

PERMIT # ACT/007/004

VIOLATION 1 OF 1

ASSESSMENT DATE 01/04/96

ASSESSMENT OFFICER Joseph C. Helfrich

I. HISTORY MAX 25 PTS

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

ASSESSMENT DATE 01/04/96

EFFECTIVE ONE YEAR TO DATE 01/04/95

PREVIOUS VIOLATIONS

EFFECTIVE DATE

POINTS

— — —
One point, for each past violation, up to one year;
Five points, for each past violation in a CO, up to one year;
No pending notices will be counted.

TOTAL HISTORY POINTS 0

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? Hindrance

A. Event Violations Max 45 PTS

1. What is the event which the violated standard was designed to prevent?

2. What is the probability of the occurrence of the event which a violated standard was designed to prevent? _____

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

ASSIGN PROBABILITY OF OCCURRENCE POINTS _____

PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION OF POINTS

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 _____

PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION OF POINTS

B. Hindrance Violations MAX 25 PTS

1. Is this a potential or actual hindrance to enforcement? Actual

PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION OF POINTS

The operator failed to take a sample at a spring monitoring location. Not taking samples prevents the Division from making an assessment of the mines' impacts to the hydrologic balance. In this particular case, there was an orange precipitate on the bottom of the stream, and the inspector wanted to find out if there was an indication of an elevated iron level. No samples had been taken at sampling point B-22 in either 1995 or 1994 although three samples were taken in 1993.

RANGE 0 - 25

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

ASSIGN HINDRANCE POINTS 12

TOTAL SERIOUSNESS POINTS (A or B)

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, lacks 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	<u>0</u>
Negligence	<u>1-15</u>
Greater Degree of Fault	<u>16-30</u>

STATE DEGREE OF NEGLIGENCE

ASSIGN NEGLIGENCE POINTS 18

PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION OF POINTS

The operator has a contractor take water samples, so he does not have direct control. The inspector had previously discussed with the operator the potential problems with water sampling, but it was not possible to point out this specific problem until it occurred. While the operator could have followed through to make sure the water samples were being taken properly. The Inspector did not believe the operator was unusually negligent. However, the permittee had not met the requirements of the mining and reclamation plan.

IV. GOOD FAITH MAX 20 PTS. (EITHER A or B) (Does not apply to violations requiring any abatement measures.)

A. Did the operator have the onsite 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)

Normal Compliance 0

(The operator complied within the abatement period required)

(The operator complied with conditions and/or terms of approved Mining and Reclamation Plan)

* Assign in upper or lower half of range depending on abatement occurring in first or second half of abatement period.

B. Did the permittee not have the resources at hand to achieve compliance OR does the situation require the submission of plans prior to physical activity to achieve compliance?

IF SO - DIFFICULT ABATEMENT

Difficult Abatement Situation

Rapid Compliance -11 to -20*

(Permittee used diligence to abate the violation)

Normal Compliance -1 to -10*

(The operator complied within the abatement period required)

Extended Compliance 0

(Permittee took minimal actions for abatement to stay within the limits of the NOV or the violated standard, or the plan submitted for abatement was incomplete)
(Permittee complied with conditions and/or terms of approved Mining and Reclamation Plan)

EASY OR DIFFICULT ABATEMENT?

ASSIGN GOOD FAITH POINTS 0

PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION OF POINTS

Good faith is to be evaluated upon termination of the violation.

V. ASSESSMENT SUMMARY FOR N-95-41-3-1

<u>I.</u>	<u>TOTAL HISTORY POINTS</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>II.</u>	<u>TOTAL SERIOUSNESS POINTS</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>III.</u>	<u>TOTAL NEGLIGENCE POINTS</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>IV.</u>	<u>TOTAL GOOD FAITH POINTS</u>	<u>- 0</u>
	<u>TOTAL ASSESSED POINTS</u>	<u>30</u>
	<u>TOTAL ASSESSED FINE</u>	<u>\$400.00</u>