



0032
STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Wildlife Resources

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*Big mine file
Route to L. P. Norton
Exec S. Linner*
Norman H. Bangert, Governor
Dee C. Hansen, Executive Director
William H. Geer, Division Director

File Act 107/AS #2

September 20, 1988

RECEIVED
SEP 23 1988

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

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

Attention: Susan Linner

Dear Dianne:

The Division has evaluated Utah Fuel Company's proposed portal breakout for the Skyline Mine in the South Fork of Eccles Canyon (NE4, SW4, Sec. 24, T13S, R6E, S1M). The following is offered for your consideration.

An electroshock survey for fish distribution during late August, 1988 showed cutthroat trout to persist within the South Fork from its confluence with Eccles Creek upstream to just beyond the U.S. Forest Service boundary. At that location a large beaver pond represents a barrier. However, if it were removed, fish would likely be distributed into the headwater section of the main stem of South Fork.

Upgrading of the existing road up the main stem as well as the road in the tributary canyon and development of the portal site will likely impact the stream with sediments. It is recommended that during the development phase, all unconsolidated soil areas along the road and at the portal site be sprayed with a tacifier. Drainage control from the road's and pad's surface should include facilities such as filter fabric to capture sediments. Once development is completed all disturbed areas should be hydro sprayed with a wood-fiber mulch and an appropriate seed mix.

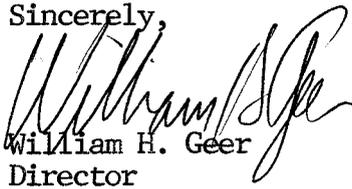
Culvert placement on tributary streams should be such that they are (1) installed during low flow, (2) sized to accommodate the 100 year storm event and (3) left in place for life of the facility. Sediment control with filtering/settling basins must be accomplished.

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Dianne, sediment is a major concern for the South Fork as well as Eccles Creek. Turbidity in South Fork measured as "nephelometric turbidity units" should not be allowed to exceed a 10% increase over background measurements. The Division has assessed techniques to enhance spawning gravel in South Fork as mitigation, but control of sediments was decided as being the most practical and beneficial approach.

Thank you for an opportunity to review and provide comment.

Sincerely,



William H. Geer
Director

cc: Fish and Wildlife Service
Forest Service - Price