



# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY

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0021

June 6, 2000

Mr. Gary Taylor, Chief Engineer  
Canyon Fuel Company, LLC  
Skyline Mine  
HC 35 Box 380  
Helper, Utah 84526

Dear Gary:

Subject: Reconnaissance Inspection UT0023540

*Josy Mike*  
*ACT/007/005*  
*Incoming*

I completed a Reconnaissance Inspection of Skyline Mine on May 12, 2000. I primarily came to the mine site to observe the sedimentation pond and discuss the failure of chronic toxicity testing.

Since my on-site visit I have had the chance to speak with Chris Hansen and observe the results of the second chronic toxicity test which failed. After my discussion with Chris we both felt that solids picked up in the sedimentation pond are a potential problem. A third chronic toxicity test will be allowed which should confirm this theory. If the solids do not appear to be the problem, then the State would request that Skyline begin a toxicity reduction evaluation (TRE) by beginning a toxicity identification evaluation (TIE). There is potential for the toxicity to disappear. If this occurs please send us a letter indicating the toxicity disappeared, why you feel it did and that you will go back to routine biomonitoring. If we do not agree with your conclusions we will notify you by telephone followed by mail.

Another issue is the cleaning of the sedimentation pond. It is our understanding that Skyline is planning on doing this in the summer as soon as can be done. We agree and support your actions. If for some reason this will not be done please let us know.

We encourage you to move your mine water discharge out of your sedimentation pond as soon as you can. With the exception of failure of chronic toxicity which you are presently working on, no other permit problems were noted during the inspection.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or report please contact me at (801) 538-6058.

June 6, 2000

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Sincerely,



Michael D. Herkimer, Environmental Scientist  
Permits & Compliance Section

MDH:cc

Enclosure

cc: Donna Inman, U.S. EPA Region VIII (W/encl)  
Mike Suflita, DOGM (W/encl)  
David Ariotti, District Engineer (W/encl)  
Claron Bjork, Southeastern Utah District Health Dept. (W/encl)

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