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Division of Water Quality

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October 28, 2002

Mr. Chris Hanson, Environmental Coordinator
Canyon Fuel Company, LLC – Skyline Mine
HCR 35 Box 380
Helper, UT 84526

Dear Chris:

Subject: Reconnaissance Inspection at Skyline Mine UT0023540

On September 18, 2002 I completed a Reconnaissance Inspection of Skyline Mine. The purpose of the inspection was to determine compliance with Skyline's UPDES permit UT0023540. The Division of Water Quality has been aware of the ground water problems existing at the facility over the last year. As a result of substantial increase in flow, the loading of TDS to Eccles Creek has increased substantially over the permit limit. This increase in flow was considered as temporary and there was hope that the flow would decrease. Since this has not occurred we asked the mine to address this issue. Since this inspection the mine has requested a modification to the TDS loading in their permit and the Division of Water Quality is in process of that request. Over the last year rarely has the concentration of TDS exceeded 500 mg/L which is indicative of excellent water quality. The TDS loading is the major problem facing Skyline Mine in relation to its UPDES permit. The requested modification will address that issue. Except for the TDS issue there were no other permit exceedances or problems noted during the inspection.

No further response is necessary from the mine and if there are questions or comments. Please contact me at (801)538-6058.

Sincerely,

Michael Herkimer, Environmental Scientist
Permits & Compliance Section

MDH:mc

Enclosure

cc: Donna Inman, EPA Region VIII
Clarion Bjork, Southeastern Utah District Health Dept
David Ariotti, Southeastern Utah Regional Engineer
Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

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