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Pleasant Grove, Utah

DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

*Big. Citizen Complaint File**Copy Jacoming
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(Chris Hansen)**FAX PFO***From : Max A. Blackham****To: Mary Ann Wright****Subject: Official written complaint regarding spring water loss on personal property in Snyder Canyon- Clearcreek area.**

After writing Mr. Jerry D. Olds regarding spring water dry up on my personal spring into my cabin in the head of Snyder Canyon He was very kind and answered regarding my complaint to his office.

He advised me to contact you and make my case known to your office as it has jurisdiction over the mining industry of which I have a complaint with.

In the 40 years I have owned this property the springs have NEVER dried up .. They sustain reduced flow late in the fall in these past 4 dry years but have never dried up. They did so mid summer this past year. I purchased the property from Milton Jacob and he told me that they had NEVER dried up in his life time either. This represents over 100 years of continual flow.

Over my 40 year ownership there has been other very dry years but the springs never dried up. That aquifer under me has produced well and sustained me well. I have water certificates from Carbon County that are legal transfers of water to my area and have been through diversion by the State Engineer and I hold those guaranteed rights in certificate form .

This summer EVERYTHING dried up. However there is a very robust stream coming out of Eccles Canyon that has its origin in the coal mine up the canyon. They are pumping a tremendous amount of water out underground and have lowered the aquifer below my water spring levels and deny my the water the State has appropriated for my personal use. Certainly it is done so for the purpose of mining a particular strata of coal underneath our area.

I protest this in the most serious way. It is MY water, I hold the certificates of water ownership, they have absolutely NO right morally or legally to steal this water. There are ample coal veins in other parts of the coal mine that they can access without stealing my private water.

This letter represents an official protest and complaint on behalf of me and my family and it is my request that you register it as such. ✓

Further I respectfully request that you take action by virtue of your office and legal authority to resolve this matter immediately. I know it is a dry year (for everyone except the Mine) and I expect lowered spring flow but I do not accept stoppage of all my springs under any circumstances.

I will predict many other water sources being dried up as this water pumping goes on. There will be a crisis for sure and it is easier to avoid the crisis than face the results of legal thrust that will surely come as people find they have no water to drink.

I note that Electric Lake is dry, the streams out of the area surrounding Clearcreek are practically non existant and that translates to dry springs that fill the water tanks in Clearcreek and even perhaps Scofield. When they come to arms you can bet there will be some serious pressure exerted and if the mine has to make a change that will preclude coal production for a time period and those coal trains are stopped all Hell will be seen.. Excuse the emotion.

I would appreciate a meeting with you and discuss the matter further, however, I would appreciate a written communication from you that I can have on file. Human beings and their rights are still more important than coal and money. It is just that simple. ✓

Thank you for letting me bend your ear and accepting this letter of complaint. I look forward to meeting with you if time permits.

Sincerely,



Max A. Blackham D.M.D. (Ret)

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