

0017

Pam

March 11, 2003

Mary Ann Wright
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
Utah Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 146300
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-6300

RECEIVED

MAR 13 2003

DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

*Incoming
3/007/005
Citizen Complaint
Copy to Pam*

Dear Ms. Wright,

I am writing this letter as a formal complaint regarding the decreasing water table in the Clear Creek area above Schofield, Utah. There is and has been an incredible amount of water being pumped from the Eccles Canyon mine for nearly a year. I know that the past few years have been very dry years. However, in my opinion, the drought conditions make it even more important to address this problem.

The problem is that the water table in the area surrounding Eccles Canyon is dropping significantly, especially since they started pumping. Our well has gone from a standing water level of 60 ft. down to a standing water level of 124 ft. during this same period of time. The springs, in the canyons adjacent to the canyon our property is in (Little Snyder Canyon), which have flowed freely for at least 50 years, according to those who have lived and worked there, are now drying up. Electric Lake and its drainage are incredibly dry, especially since the pumping in Eccles Canyon started.

It is wrong to let the water users in the upper Schofield and upper Huntington Canyon areas suffer losses because of the State's lack of regulation of the misuse of the water resources by one company. When we are in a dry period, as we are now, it is unconscionable to allow one company such as the Eccles Canyon Mine to misuse the water resource, drawing the aquifer down to unacceptably low levels. Who knows when the water conditions will replenish this aquifer if we do not take steps now to conserve it?

Please accept my complaint and notify me as to what must be done to rectify this problem.

Sincerely,

Dennis C. Law

Dennis C. Law
1950 E. Forest Creek Lane.
Salt Lake City, Utah 84121

cc. Mark Shurtleff, Attorney General
Michael O. Leavitt, Governor
Robert L. Morgan, Director