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HOMELESS FROM QUAKE/A3

SMALL PHONE COMPANIES SEEK PROTECTION/B1

REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM MOVES THROUGH LEGISLATURE/C1

CASPER Star

WYOMING'S STATEWIDE NEWSPAPER

SATURDAY, J

JANUARY 21, 1995.

Coal plant permits hinge on old violation Utah bond tangle taints Puron official

By CHRIS TOLLEFSON
Star-Tribune staff writer

CASPER -- One of the principal corporate officers involved in a plan to build a new coal processing plant near Gillette was involved in 1986 in a Utah coal mining company that went bankrupt and allegedly forfeited the bond put up to cover reclamation costs, federal records show.

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OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING,
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The coal drying plant would create a high heat value, low-sulfur coal.
Please see PLANT, A8



PLANT: Laramie company tries to keep all officers' names secret

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The alleged bond forfeiture occurred in 1986 in connection with Utah's Sunnyside Mine, when McNeil was one of the officers of mine owner Kaiser Coal Corporation.

The letter was obtained by the Powder River Basin Resource Council from DEQ permitting records in Sheridan.

According to Rick Chancellor of the DEQ's Land Quality Division, the violation remains unresolved and the division's "deny" recommendation resulting from the violation remains in place.

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Korman was allowed to post a \$3 million reclamation bond, but Griffin said that most of the bond was tied up in real estate collateral. When the OSM investigated later, "We determined that it should have been about a \$8 million bond," she said.

Griffin also said that when Kaiser filed for bankruptcy, it owed the federal government about \$200,000 in Abandoned Mine Land payments.

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"Puron requests that this information be kept confidential and be used only for the background search and not to be released to the public in any matter," he wrote.

His request was ultimately denied by the DEQ, though the agency solicited an opinion from the secretary of state's office to see if it could be legally granted.

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"Please provide us with sufficient evidence that divulging of this information is a trade secret," Hill wrote.

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"If I want to keep my job, I have to go through Lyle," Vallancourt said.

Randen also did not return messages left at his office this week.

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"I think it's very disturbing that they're asking the state for fast-track permitting, when they don't even want the people of the state to know who they are," Strayer added.

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JAN BROWN / OOGM <u>ASAP</u>	359-3940	538-5340

COMMENTS: JAN: Here are: (1) Newspaper Article (2) 1993 CABER letter (3) OSM Memo, dated yesterday, re permit block.

FROM: Mike Malmqvist 536-6658

CLIENT AND MATTER NUMBER: 04785.003

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Jan. 23, 1995 9:31AM
JAN 22 '95 10:24AM KENNECOTT ADMIN

No. 2209 P.E. 13/13

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Ted Stewart
Executive Director
James W. Carter
Division Director

355 West North Temple
3 Third Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203
801-538-5340
801-359-3940 (Fax)
801-538-5319 (TDD)

December 23, 1993

Keith Harrison
Office of Surface Mining
Reclamation and Enforcement
Application/Violator System Office
1300 New Circle Road, NE
Lexington, Kentucky 40505-4215

Re: Clarification of December 17, 1993 Stonie Barker AVS Check Letter

Dear Mr. Harrison:

This letter is written pursuant to our conversation today clarifying the status of Kaiser Coal Company's AVS block entered by the State of Utah. Kaiser previously operated the Sunnyside Coal Mine in Utah under permit No. INA/007/013. Although Kaiser Coal Company filed for bankruptcy, the State of Utah did not forfeit Kaiser's bond under this permit. The entry of a permit block for Kaiser Coal Company for bond forfeiture was therefore erroneous.

Kaiser is not presently in violation of the Utah State program and there is no basis for a Utah State permit block on the AVS system. I will ensure that the erroneously entered information will be removed from the AVS system at the earliest possible date. Please contact me if you have further questions.

Very truly yours,

James W. Carter
Director

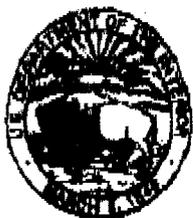
jbe
cc: Dr. Anneta Clark
Denise Dragoo, Esq.
L:CLARIFIC.DEC



SENT BY:

1-24-95 14:08

8015366111: # 1/ 1



United States Department of the Interior



OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
 Reclamation and Enforcement
 Applicant/Violator System Office
 1800 New Circle Road, NE
 Lexington, KY 40505-4215

Memorandum

To: Debbie Vizina
 Wyoming State Regulatory Authority

From: Colene Carlson *CC*
 Lexington AVS Office

Date: January 24, 1995

The OSM recommendation for Cordero Mining Company's application TFN23/370 is Issue. The system is showing a bond forfeiture on Utah permit INA007013 which is incorrect. The bond was never forfeited but released. The system will not let the AVS office update and resave the violator OFT. This correct will be done by the programmers in Washington D.C. in the near future.

Post-it Fax Note	7671	Date	# of pages
To	Mike Malquist	From	Deanna Hill
Co./Dept.		Copy	WY-DES
Phone #		Phone #	77-6910
Fax #	801-536-6111	Fax #	

Jan 23, 1995
JAN 22 1995

9:30AM
07:00

KENNECOTT ADMIN
INSIDE

No. 2209 P.F. 11/13

- HOMELESS FROM QUAKE/A3
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