November 15, 1979

Inspection Memo
to Coal File:

RE: Sage Point-Dugout Mine
Eureka Energy Company
PRO/007/009

Eureka Energy Company personnel Paul Anderson and Reed Mower accompanied Joe Helfrich, Tom Suchoski and Mary Ann Wright of the Division on a study of the aquatic systems of Fish Creek and Soldier Creek on November 1, 1979.

The character of Fish Creek changes both seasonally and as it flows across the mine plan area. Above the proposed portal area, the stream is perennial. The macroinvertebrates have a density of less than one per square foot. As the stream approaches the proposed portal area, it hits alluvium and disappears underground during most of the year. The stream surfaces onto bedrock about one-half mile below the proposed extent of surface disturbance. It then flows several hundred feet before it drops over a 100 foot mancos ledge. The biological community is also rather sparse through this stretch.

The stream was then investigated from about one-half mile below the waterfall (about where the power line crosses the upper quarter of Section 29, Township 13 South, Range 12 East) for about a half mile. In this stretch, the stream passes through heavily alkaline soils and is joined by many seeps along the way. Paul Anderson stated that an investigation in August, 1979 showed this stretch to be flowing then also. It appeared though that more water is flowing now than in the summer because of recent precipitation and less use by plants. The density of the macroinvertebrate community through this lower section was less than one per 25 square feet of stream. Just above the old fence line (at section line between Section 29 and 32, Township 13 South, Range 12 East) the stream again disappears into colluvium and does not reappear below this point.

Soldier Creek was investigated at several points along its course through the mine plan area. For the majority of the area, this stream is diverted into Anderson Reservoir and thus the only flows which pass through the area come from the excess of spring runoff which overflows the diversion. The stream is of good quality above the mine plan area in Soldier Canyon, but below Anderson Reservoir it passes through the same alkali areas as Fish Creek.

MARY ANN WRIGHT MAW
RECLAMATION BIOLOGIST

Statistics: Vehicle # EX 60237
399 Miles
3 persons @ $37.58/person = $112.74

MAW/te