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UNITED STATES FUEL COMPANY

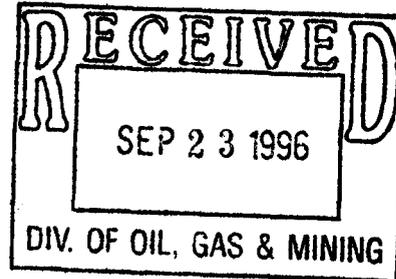
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September 20, 1996

Mr. James W. Carter
Director
Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
Box 145801
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5801



Dear Mr. Carter:

On August 8, Gary Barker and I discussed with you several of the issues pertaining to NOV number N96-46-2-1 after an informal hearing for another violation. You requested that we submit additional information to support our arguments, which we did. Some weeks later, I received the proposed assessment of \$440 for this violation with the standard language that we should appeal within 30 days of receiving the notice. I have tried to contact you several times, but to no avail. Therefore, I am writing this letter to reserve our right to additional appeal while awaiting your response.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Watson
President