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State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

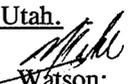
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April 2, 1997

Mike Watson, President
U.S. Fuel Company
340 Hardscrabble Road
Helper, Utah 84526

Re: Informational Request, U.S. Fuel Company, Hiawatha Complex, ACT/007/011, File #2, Carbon County, Utah.

Dear Mr.  Watson:

A review of the recent complete Inspection Report dated March 5, the Technical Field Report dated March 11, and the current status of reclamation activities indicate the need for clarifying and providing supplemental information to your approved Mining and Reclamation Plan. As well it should be noted that all ongoing mining and reclamation activities be permitted and accurately reflected in your Mining and Reclamation Plan.

If you will recall from our meeting in December of 1996, a revised contour map of the slurry ponds was provided as a demonstration of grading to that point in time. Supplying this type of information is of critical value in that it gives both the permittee and the regulatory entity clear guidance during the reclamation process. In addition, the final pond configuration needs to be clarified and approved. The basis for this informational request is to (1) insure proper grading before soil placement and (2) avoid disturbing the placed soil resource should the grade need to be altered to meet the requirements of the approved plan.

Please clarify the final configuration and submit a revised surface configuration map depicting the final reclamation grade. Submitted maps need to be properly formatted, updated to current activity and incorporated into your existing approved Mining and Reclamation Plan. Please submit the requested information by April 25, 1997.

If you have any questions please call Susan White or Bob Davidson.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Joseph C. Helfrich'.

Joseph C. Helfrich
Permit Supervisor

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cc: Susan White
Bob Davidson
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*Joe requests
update pond
grading maps*