

STATE OF UTAH
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NORMAN H. BANGERTER, GOVERNOR

SUZANNE DANDOO, M.D., M.P.H., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RECEIVEDSeptember 26, 1985
533-6146**OCT 01 1985****DIVISION OF OIL
GAS & MINING**

Mr. Glen H. Sides
General Manager
U.S. Steel Mining Co., Inc.
P. O. Box 1270
Paonia, Colorado 81428

Re: Wellington Coal Cleaning
Refuse Pond Dikes

Dear Mr. Sides:

We have reviewed the proposed dike modifications for the upper refuse pond. As indicated in our May 4, 1984 letter we are concerned about the potential seepage of process wastewater from the site.

The proposed use of coarse slurry on the north dike appears not to provide adequate seepage control. The proposed increased level of water in the upper refuse pond could also possibly increase the amount of process water which leaves the property by seepage. This Bureau has adopted the Colorado River Salinity Forum policy that there should be no discharge of process water where practical. We also note that the quarterly submittal of surface and groundwater sampling data along with dike inspection reports have not been received by this office as requested in our May 4, 1984 letter.

Therefore we request that the company submit the following information for our review associated with this project.

1. U.S. Steel data on surface and groundwater sampling at the Wellington Coal Cleaning plant collected since January 1984.
2. Estimated current daily tons of salt in the seepage from the refuse ponds and basis for this estimate.
3. Estimation of increased daily tons of salt in the seepage if the pond level in the upper refuse pond is raised and the basis for this estimate.
4. Data substantiating basis of expected seepage rate through the north dike.

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5. Revised north dike plans and information indicating method to minimize seepage.

Please contact me at 533-6146 if you desire further discussion on any items.

Sincerely,



Steven R. McNeal
Environmental Engineer
Bureau of Water Pollution Control

cc: U.S. Steel, Wellington
Oil, Gas & Mining
Southeastern Dist. Health Dept.

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