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RECEIVED
JUL 07 1997
DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

July 1, 1997

Mary Ann Wright
Associate Director
Coal Regulatory Program
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

ACT/007/018 #2
Copy Mary Ann, Ken

Re: Quality and Consistency of Water Quality Monitoring Reports

Dear Ms. Wright:

A copy of your letter of June 18, 1997, to Mr. Rick Olsen at the Soldier Canyon Mine was forwarded to me along with a note relieving me of responsibility for water monitoring at Soldier Canyon. In this letter you state that water monitoring reports submitted from Soldier Canyon are "incomplete, incorrect, or inconsistent" and that our work is "careless and negligent". You further state that these problems are "re-occurring".

I reviewed the water monitoring data which have been submitted to the Division from Soldier Canyon Mine for 1995 and 1996. Field sheets have consistently been submitted with laboratory data sheets and flow measurements have been submitted in cubic feet per second. In your letter you mention an example of an incomplete flow calculation for Station G-5 which was measured during the February 1997 monitoring. This example was a simple oversight on my part. In any case I do not believe that one oversight in over two years of data constitutes a "re-occurring" problem or careless and negligent work. I am not claiming that our data are perfect, but problems are minor and infrequent.

I have personally submitted quarterly water monitoring reports for Soldier Canyon Mine, Skyline Mine, and Sufco Mine for the last two years. During that time the quarterly reports and annual reports have been reviewed by Division hydrologists. Division inspectors have reviewed water monitoring data as part of every complete inspection. I am only aware or one or two minor problems which in each case were quickly resolved. If our work has been unacceptable the Division has not informed us. I believe our past experience with the Division has been cooperative. If we had known of any problems with our data submittals, of course we would have corrected the problems to the satisfaction of the Division.

Considering the above, I am surprised at the accusing and threatening tone of the above referenced letter. Your letter has damaged Canyon Fuel Company and damaged my standing within that company. Also, since the only opportunities I have of continuing my career after I leave Canyon Fuel are in consulting to the coal mining industry, of which Canyon Fuel would have been a major potential client, the damage you have caused me seriously affects my ability to continue my career.

I sincerely regret this situation. Please advise me if anything can be done to resolve it.

Sincerely,

Barry J. Barnum

cc: Rick Olsen, Soldier Canyon Mine
Jim Carter, Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining