



0015

STATE OF UTAH  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
Oil, Gas & Mining

Norman H. Bangerter, Governor  
Dee C. Hansen, Executive Director  
Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D., Division Director

355 W. North Temple • 3 Triad Center • Suite 350 • Salt Lake City, UT 84180-1203 • 801-538-5340

January 23, 1986

Mr. John Barton  
Mine Safety and Health Administration  
Health and Safety Analysis Center  
P. O. Box 25367, Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

Dear Mr. Barton:

RE: Closure of the Gordon Creek #3 Portals, Beaver Creek Coal Company, Gordon Creek #3 and #6 Mines, INA/007/017, #2, Carbon County, Utah

The Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM) is currently reviewing the reclamation plan for the Gordon Creek #3 and #6 Mines. DOGM requires operators to install concrete block portal seals with two inch diameter water drains, if operations encountered mine inflows. Apparently, these portal sealing procedures were not initiated in September 1983 when the Gordon Creek #3 and #6 Mine portals were permanently abandoned.

DOGM is concerned that the portal abandonment measures employed at the Gordon Creek #3 and #6 Mines were inadequate to prevent (1) portal seal "blow out" if hydraulic head develops in the abandoned workings and (2) seals from allowing ventilation to occur and thereby, feed the fire in the adjacent National Mine workings.

Would you please examine your records and regulations to answer the following questions for our clarification:

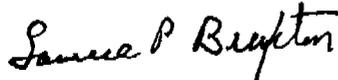
1. Are Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) records available that document portal sealing measures at the Gordon Creek #3 and #6 Mines were employed due to unsafe roof conditions at the time of closure.

Page 2  
Mr. John Barton  
INA/007/017  
January 23, 1986

2. Are there MSHA or other safety constraints or prohibitions that would preclude reopening the portals to install concrete blocks seals with water drains and backfilling.

Your response to these two questions would be most appreciated. Please feel free to contact me if you should have any questions on this matter.

Sincerely,



Lowell P. Braxton  
Administrator  
Mineral Resource Development  
and Reclamation Program

RVS/btb  
cc: Dan Guy  
Tony Gabossi  
Rick Smith  
John Whitehead  
9294R-50 & 51