



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

JOHN R. BAZA
Division Director

October 10th, 2017

David Avery
P.O. Box 70
East Carbon, Utah 84520

Subject: Grassy Trail Creek, Citizen Complaint, Task ID #5015

Dear Mr. Avery,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining's Coal Program (the Division) has concluded its investigation into potential impacts to Grassy Trail Creek.

After meeting with you and conducting a field inspection of the approximate location of the impaired Grassy Trail Creek channel, the Division reviewed its mining records and determined that mining activity did occur beneath Grassy Trail Creek. The mining was conducted by the Sunny Side Mine operated by Kaiser Steel Co. The mining that occurred in the area of potential impact to Grassy Trail Creek occurred from approximately 1957 to 1963. Additionally, Division staff interviewed former employees/mine managers with knowledge of the Sunnyside Mine and its handling of in-mine water.

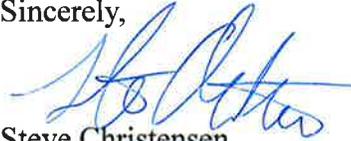
The Division cannot ascertain whether coal mining related activity potentially impacted Grassy Trail Creek. As the mining conducted by the Sunnyside Mine beneath Grassy Trail Creek occurred well before the enactment of the Surface Mining Coal Reclamation Act (SMCRA) in 1977, the Division does not have water monitoring data from that period (i.e. 1957 to 1963). The Sunnyside Mine went into bankruptcy in the mid 1990's. After forfeiting the reclamation bond, the Division completed reclamation of the site in 1999. The Division has not had a permit for the mine, nor has there been any mining activity since that time at the Sunnyside Mine property.

The West Ridge Mine also conducted coal mining activity in the area adjacent to Grassy Trail Creek. However; upon review of the mine workings of the West Ridge Mine, it appears that the closest the mining came to Grassy Trail Creek was approximately 1.5-2 miles away. As such, the potential for the West Ridge Mine to have impacted Grassy Trail Creek in the area identified during the field inspection is extremely low.



If you have any questions, please call me at (801) 538-5350.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Christensen", written in a cursive style.

Steve Christensen
Permit Supervisor