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

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August 15, 1996

TO: File

THRU: Pam Grubaugh-Littig, Bond Release Coordinator *gr*

FROM: Sharon Falvey, Senior Reclamation Hydrologist *SFF*

Re: Phase III Bond Release Technical Review, Huntington #4 Mine, Mountain Coal Company, ACT/015/004-93B, Folder #3, Emery County, Utah

**Synopsis:**

Mountain Coal Company submitted an application for Phase III Bond Release on April 2, 1996. Phase II bond release was conditionally approved based on an removal of the sediment pond which was completed in September 1995.

**Analysis:**

No information on the design for the culvert construction and final configuration was found in the existing plan or, the 1995 amendment files. However, amendment 95-B which identified the proposed changes was previously approved. This information was archived. The approved version is now incorporated into the plan. Additional copies should be submitted to appropriate agencies if, this has not already been done.

In order to obtain Phase II bond release, an analysis of sediment production from the site was presented and accepted by the Division. However, no analysis stating whether surface or subsurface impacts are occurring or whether there is a probability of future occurrence was assessed by the Division. The Operator should summarize the surface and ground water quantity and quality to demonstrate that disturbance to the hydrologic balance in the permit and adjacent areas has been minimized and to demonstrate that the water quality and quantity are suitable for the post mining land use. The operator must show the performance standards of R645-301-750 and all requirements of the act have been met according to R645-301-880.330. Following presentation of this summary by the operator the Division will be able to address the requirements under R645-301-880.210.

1. The Technical Analysis indicated that mining ceased to prevent impacts to Little Bear Springs. This station was formally identified and monitored as site 4-1-W under the



Huntington #4 permit and is currently monitored by the Castle Valley Special Services District. The premining (if it exists), operational, and postmining water quality and quantity for Little Bear Spring, should be assessed to determine whether changes in water quantity and quality have occurred throughout the mining and reclamation period and determine whether the changes, if noted, are related to mining. This analysis is important since, future mining activities potentially affecting Little Bear Spring may occur.

2. The surface water sites upstream and downstream of the disturbed area.

One other area within the permit and reclaimed area is issuing water. However, this site is associated with the Leamaster Mine and was reclaimed under the abandoned mine reclamation program Spring Canyon Project, Millfork Site AMR/007/905. This site has not been considered a discharge under the purview of the Huntington #4 permit.

**Findings:**

Prior to Phase III bond release the Division must make a finding under R645-301-880.210 regarding occurrence and potential for water pollution. Prior to making this statement the operator will need to submit the following in accordance with the requirements of:

**R645-301-880.330**, assess impacts to Little Bear Spring and surface water sites according to the performance standards, demonstrate through data analysis that the operator has minimized disturbance to the hydrologic balance in the permit and adjacent areas and show that the water quality and quantity are suitable for the post mining land uses.

cc: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor  
Susan White, Senior Reclamation Biologist