

Scott H. Matheson

February 17, 1977

Mr. Ralph Blumer, Mining Engineer  
U.S.G.S. Office of Area Mining Supervisor  
Conservation Division  
8426 Federal Building  
Salt Lake City, Utah

*2003*

Re: Trail Mountain Coal Company  
Sec. 25, T. 17 S., R. 6 E.  
Emery County, Utah -ACT/015/009

Dear Ralph:

This letter is in response to your telephone request for our position on some of the reclamation requirements for this mine. As you know, the surface facilities for the mine are located on fee land. Therefore, the requirements set forth in this letter will be those which we will ask of Trail Mountain Coal Company in their, yet to be submitted, Mining and Reclamation Plan.

- (1) The major concern in Cottonwood Canyon is sediment from the coal mine surface facilities, namely the coal surge pile, reject pile, and general working pad entering into Cottonwood Creek via surface runoff.

To alleviate this problem, the Division will recommend a 2'-3' earth/rock berm along the entire Cottonwood Creek side of the surface facilities. A catchment basin at the lowest point of collection on the berm to retain sediment will also be called for. The berm will be maintained throughout the life of the mine.

- (2) Another concern with the presently existing Trail Mountain Mine is the adequacy of the culverts under the working pad access ramps.

It is our opinion, that the culverts presently in place, which are 2' in diameter, might not be adequate for regular stream flow. More information on the stream flow past the mine will be needed before a determination is made in this regard. However, climatological records indicate that the area has a history of flooding in quantities even higher than the 50 year flood prediction.

No culverts will be able to handle the peak runoff expected in Cottonwood Creek and the preferable alternative here is to design spillways over the top of the access ramps to prevent the working

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pad from being washed out. An additional alternative is to design a flood spillway on the roadside of Cottonwood Creek to divert flood waters away from the working pad.

Trail Mountain Coal Company has been in contact with this Division, and is presently working on the Mining and Reclamation Plan for the fee owned surface facilities.

If there are other inquiries you have in regard to this mine, please contact us.

Sincerely,

DIVISION OF OIL, GAS, AND MINING

RONALD W. DANIELS, COORDINATOR  
OF MINED LAND DEVELOPMENT

/lc

cc: Mr. John L. Bell  
Trail Mountain Coal Company  
P.O. Box 356  
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