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September 7, 1978

Mr. John Bell
P.O. Box 256
Orangeville, Utah 84537

Re: Trail Mountain Mine
ACT/015/009

Dear John:

As you know there have been allegations of water quality problems at the Trail Mountain Coal Company Mine in Cottonwood Canyon. The most recent allegation is a memo from Mr. Bob Shields of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to the Bureau of Land Management relative to the issuance of a new lease.

Upon the receipt of that memo the Division inquired of Utah Power and Light Company as to what its plans were for a West Wilberg portal. You will recall that tentative plans were to install a large - diameter culvert in Cottonwood Creek at the point where U.P.&L. would construct said portal. It was my opinion that such an action would have solved any real or alleged problems associated with your mine yard in that surface runoff would be prohibited from entering the stream.

As you can see from the attached letter from Mr. Jerman of U.P.&L. Company of August 21, 1978, That company has no definite plans or schedule at this time for work on the West Wilberg or Cottonwood portal.

Since no definitive plans are at hand, it appears that Trail Mountain Coal Co. will be required to meet the performance standards set forth in P.L. 95-87, the Federal Interim Program Rules, and most specifically, the Division M.C. Rules 715 et. seq. You will recall that these rules set forth November 4, 1978 as the deadline for compliance.

A memorandum by the Division staff is enclosed to point out some of the problems observed in the last field inspection to the Trail Mountain Mine. Most notable of these is the condition of the sedimentation pond.

In light of the time constraints now upon you I suggest that you 1. retain a professional to design a sedimentation control system for this mine, 2. proceed with the installation of adequate culverts for the approach ramps and, 3. check

the entire part M.C.-717 of the State rules and prepare a narrative addressing those points not previously covered in your mining and reclamation plan.

The Division staff will attempt to assist you in your efforts as much as time allows. Please call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

RONALD W. DANIELS
COORDINATOR OF MINED
LAND DEVELOPMENT

RWD/sp
enc: Ralph Jerman's letter of 8-21-78
Mike Minder's memo of 8-16-78