



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING

Reclamation and Enforcement

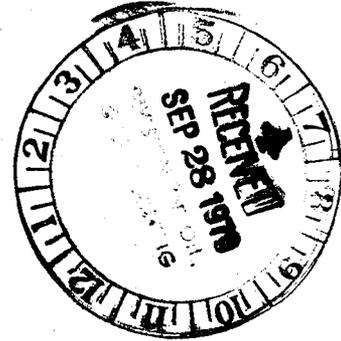
POST OFFICE BLDG. RM. 270

1823 STOUT STREET

DENVER, COLORADO 80202

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

25 SEP 1979



Mr. Ron Daniels
Staff Assistant
State of Utah
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Oil, Gas and
Mining
1588 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Reference: Trail Mountain Coal Company, Surface Drainage Design
ACT/015/009

Dear Mr. Daniels:

In response to the correspondence from Mr. Thompson of your staff, dated July 10, 1979, we are hereby withholding our approval of the proposed sediment pond design for the Trail Mountain Mine. Because of the complex nature of the mining activities in Cottonwood Canyon, we are in agreement with Mr. Thompson that replacement of the sediment pond would cause more environmental harm than if the present pond was upgraded. This does not mean that OSM wishes to continue with the present situation. Rather, we realize that the possible expansion of the Wilberg Mine through a portal in Cottonwood Canyon would disturb roughly the same area as the Trail Mountain Mine's disturbance and a single sediment control and stream diversion system for future operations should be encouraged.

As temporary measures, until the Wilberg Mine Cottonwood Portal is approved or disapproved, OSM recommends that a protective berm be maintained on the disturbed land along Cottonwood Creek. This berm should be designed to prevent any runoff from the disturbed lands from entering Cottonwood Creek. A recent visit by members of our staff and yours to the Trail Mountain Mine showed that the present berm has deteriorated in several spots.

Runoff from the disturbed area will be conveyed into the temporary sediment pond. A dewatering device is needed to insure that there is sufficient water storage volume for total containment of successive flows off the disturbed lands. Mr. Thompson has agreed to work with Trail Mountain Mine Company in applying for a NPDES permit. The NPDES permit must be obtained before the

dewatering device is used. Runoff flowing into the temporary sediment pond must be detained for a minimum of 24 hours. The discharge must meet the effluent limitations set forth in the OSM Interim Regulatory Program and in the NPDES permit.

Construction of the 48 inch culvert to divert the water under the parking lot is encouraged. It should be noted that the exhibit labelled "Parking Lot Drainage Details, Sheet 7 of 7" has Cottonwood Creek flowing in what would be an uphill direction. This should be corrected on future submittals.

A copy of this letter is enclosed for transmittal to the company by your office.

Sincerely,



DONALD A. CRANE

cc: Ron Daniels