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STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES & ENERGY
Oil, Gas & Mining

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. G.A. (Jim) Shirazi, Director, Oil Gas and Mining
FROM: David Darby, Reclamation Hydrologist
SUBJECT: Natomas Trail Mountain Coal Company
DATE: April 15, 1983

AC/015/009
#7

On April 11, 1983 representatives from Natomas Trail Mountain Coal Company met with personnel from the Division to express their regret of past violations and concern about the Board's order to show cause on a pattern of hydrologic related violations.

In an effort to persuade the Division of their good intentions Natomas presented the Division with plans which depict procedures they will implement to abate future violations to hydrologic regulations and address permanent solutions to previously issued violations. Actually, the plans are not unlike their modification proposals previously submitted and approved. I have reviewed the plans and conclude that if they are implemented that the pattern of past violations will not reoccur.

In working with Allen Childs, Mine Engineer for Natomas, I have found him to be conscious and sincere towards alleviating the problems that have plagued the mine. Allen inherited the already existing deficiencies and problems of surface control when he took over as mine engineer about a year ago. Since then he has corrected several areas of concern. I feel that his efforts have been hindered because of insufficient finances (from their management) and unexpected weather conditions.

I believe the management at Natomas now realize that the areas prone to violations have to be corrected and has since committed the fund to do so.

It is my opinion that the Trail Canyon Mine can operate effectively with these plans implemented to acheive reclamation and runoff control. We should comment to the Board as to that effect and recommend a lenient decision.

DD/lm