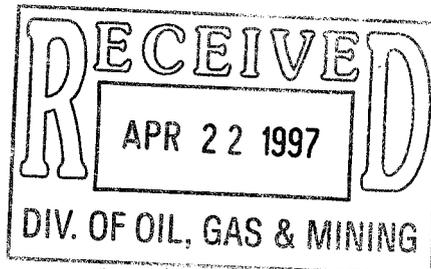


File Code: 2820-4

Date: April 16, 1997



Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
ATTN: Joe Helfrich
1594 West North Temple
Suite 1210
Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

File # 2

Re: Updated Plan for Trail Mountain Mine Permit Renewal, PacifiCorp, Trail Mountain Mine, ACT/015/009-966, File #2, Emery County, Utah

Copy Joe & Aaron

Dear Joe,

We have reviewed PacifiCorp's response (dated September 3, 1996) to our comments (dated October 17, 1995). All except the following comment have been adequately addressed:

Our original comment was:

Page 7-14, Section 7.1.5. The gradual increase in ground water entering the mine could decrease the ground water contribution to Straight Canyon. The water would be discharged to Cottonwood Creek. PacifiCorp must quantify the changes in flow and describe potential impacts to Straight Canyon and Cottonwood Creek.

PacifiCorp's response was that information on intercepted ground water is in the Probable Hydrologic Consequences (PHC) section, which is in Appendix 7-10 of the MRP. Additional information is needed, either in the PHC or the text, to understand and evaluate the potential hydrologic impacts:

1. The PHC calculates water inflow based on the area of mining. This should be supplemented with data on the amount of water currently being produced and the current area of mining.
2. The PHC predicts a reduction in the annual flow of Cottonwood Creek "assuming that none of the inflowing water is used underground." However, there is a previous statement in the PHC that use of the water that flows into the mine will preclude the need to pump water from Cottonwood Creek. These statements make it difficult to determine the ultimate effect on Cottonwood Creek. Data must be provided to show if the flow in Straight Canyon would be diminished, and if water would be diverted from Straight Canyon to Cottonwood Creek.

3. The PHC predicts a cone of depression produced by 50 years of mining may impact spring (D-18-6) 5abd-S1, which has measured discharge rates of 180 to 200 gallons per minute. This would be true if the spring were in either the Blackhawk or Star Point formation, and within the saturated zone. A description of the predicted impacts to the spring, and an estimate of the recovery time after mining is completed, are necessary.

Please contact Dale Harber or Carter Reed at (801) 637-2817 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



for

JANETTE S. KAISER
Forest Supervisor

cc:

A.Howe