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July 5, 1979

EXP/015/036

Mr. Donald T. McMillan
Director
Utah Geological & Mineral Survey
606 Blackhawk Way
Salt Lake City, Utah 84108

RE: Exploratory Drilling

Dear Don:

It is the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining's understanding that the Utah Geological & Mineral Survey has been, and is currently, involved in exploratory drilling in certain areas of the State. The Division requires that a notice of intent be filed prior to such drilling. Authority for this requirement at present comes from Rule M-3(5) of the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act of 1975, Title 40-8, Utah Code Annotated 1953. In addition, the exploration of coal is covered under the recently passed House Bill 138, Regulation of Coal Mining and Reclamation Operations, Title 40-10, Utah Code Annotated 1953. Regulations promulgated under this act will become effective in approximately two months.

Please be advised that any drilling that the Survey is presently undertaking is in violation of the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act. Our files show no notices of intent filed from the Survey since your October 7, 1975 response to Mr. Daniels' letter of September 3, 1975.

The Division would appreciate a notice being filed, as required by Rule M-3(5), for all concurrent drilling activities and all future drilling. Please inform the members of your staff involved in drilling activities of such.

Mr. Donald T. McMillan
July 5, 1979
Page Two

Enclosed are copies of the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act and the regulations promulgated under it, the Division plugging guidelines, and House Bill 138. The Survey was recently sent a copy of the proposed rules presently being considered for adoption.

If you have any questions please call either Ron Daniels or Mike Thompson.

Best Wishes,

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CLEON B. FEIGHT
DIRECTOR

CBF/te

Enclosures