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State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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August 29, 2001

Chuck Semborski, Environmental Supervisor
Energy West Mining Company
P.O. Box 310
Huntington, Utah 8528

Re: Permit Concern, PacifiCorp, Des-Bee-Dove Mine, Upper Pad Reclamation, C/015/017-AM01A, and Permit Area Reduction, C/015/017-AM00D, Outgoing File

Dear Mr. Semborski:

The Division is responding to the concern you raised in our meeting of August 21, 2001 about the permitting of the wash that connects the disturbed area pad to the sediment pond. This mine has not been operating since 1987, but is now in the midst of being completely reclaimed. You had expressed in our meeting that for two consecutive summers, Energy West has cleaned up the wash of trash via a helicopter. Additionally, we understood that you had concerns of Energy West potentially being held responsible for coal fines that could enter the wash during the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program (AMRP) clean up of nearby abandoned coal waste piles.

I have reviewed the Technical Analysis (TA) of this site, as it was permitted by OSM 20 years ago. I found that the connecting wash is not discussed in the OSM TA. However, the TA does discuss the pond receiving the run-off from the pad. The permit was approved and has been inspected for 20 years under these conditions. Therefore, I will allow Energy West not to change the permit at this stage to include the connecting wash between the pad and the pond. Should this mine be reactivated at any time to produce coal, the connecting wash would be permitted, assuming the configuration of the pad and pond remained the same.

Please proceed with responding to the deficiencies as outlined in the current TA for the above-mentioned amendment. From our meeting, I understood that the TA deficiencies which remain are easily addressed by Energy West. Since you are in the process of responding to the current TA, then the division will wait until we reach the next round of amendment review to remove the references of permitting the wash from the TA.

Thank you for moving forward with the reclamation of this site. As you proceed, I believe you are cognizant of the difficulties in containing run-off and erosion, and I know you will make every effort to continue with reclamation work in a very careful manner. We pledge to do likewise in the execution of the AMRP project and to stay in good communication during this process. If you have any questions, please contact me at (801) 538-5306.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Wright
Associate Director, Mining

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cc: James Fulton, OSM
Mark Mesch, AMRP
Price Field Office
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