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STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Oil, Gas & Mining

Scott M. Matheson, Governor
Temple A. Reynolds, Executive Director
Dr. G. A. (Jim) Shirazi, Division Director

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Joseph C. Helfrich, Field Supervisor
FROM: Ronald W. Daniels, Deputy Director *RWD*
SUBJECT: Sewage Problem at Deer Creek Mine, ACT/015/018
DATE: September 6, 1983

On September 1, 1983, I received a telephone compliant from Mr. Walter Oviatt of the United Mine Workers of America, Price. Mr. Oviatt expressed concern that the members of his union were forced with walking through a sewage overflow caused by a blockage in the drain field system at the Deer Creek Mine.

Mr. Oviatt was referred to our Division by the Office of Surface Mining. I committed to contacting the Deer Creek Mine management and seeing that the problem was taken care of by Utah Power & Light Company (UP&L) or Emery Mining Corporation. I offered Mr. Oviatt the option of submitting his compliant in writing and he declined.

The next morning, September 2, 1983, I spoke with Mr. Bill McQuay and Mr. Don Dewey, both of UP&L, by telephone. Each of these people committed to dealing with the alleged problem on an interim basis until a permanent solution could be implemented. Apparently, the drain field for the mine's bathhouse facility is not functioning as designed.

UP&L is examining the system design and is also looking at alternatives to permanently solve this problem. The company's preferred solution at this time is to install a drain field down canyon at the nearest new possible feasible site. As you might imagine, our review of any such plans would need to be done with dispatch, especially in light of the winter season, which is fast approaching.

I would like your action on this situation to be carried out as soon as possible. I'd like to have an inspector look at the problem and assure that all action which is being taken by the company is being done in concert with the coal Act and regulations.

Let me know the result of your investigation as soon as the inspector returns from the field.

RWD/btb

cc: Dr. Jim Shirazi
Jim Smith