



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

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November 1, 1999

Janette Kaiser, Forest Supervisor
US Forest Service
599 West Price River Drive
Price, Utah 84501

Re: Cottonwood Spring, PacifiCorp, Deer Creek Mine, ACT/015/018, File #3, Emery
County, Utah

Dear Ms. Kaiser:

This letter is in response to your May 17, 1999 letter to me regarding Cottonwood Spring. This site has been the subject of numerous discussions and field visits by many of our respective personnel. I am writing this letter to clarify a basic issue.

Foremost, the division's analysis could not make a conclusive finding concerning the potential impact of mining on Cottonwood Spring flow. A Division hydrologist was allowed a time period of about four months in 1998 to further research and review data for this site in order to prove or disprove the allegation of a connection between spring flow and mining. The work began with the premise that there was a connection between mining/ dewatering at the Deer Creek Mine and spring flow reduction.

After a critical review of amassed data and analysis as detailed in the October 16, 1998 technical memo, and after lengthy discussions among technical personnel from the BLM and the Coal Program, it was concluded by OGM management that:

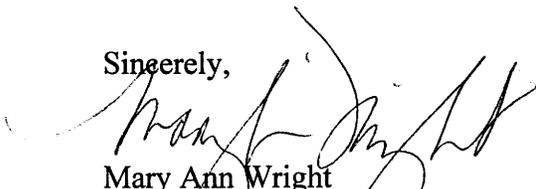
1. The existing data does not support that mining and the spring are linked as a cause and effect action, and,
2. That data cannot be obtained to support a link to mining. DOGM personnel concluded at a meeting with BLM that while more data could be collected concerning the issue, the information required to prove the case of a connection between mining and the spring could not be assembled. Thus, as you iterate in page one of your May 17, 1999 letter, DOGM believes that the best that can be done is to "suggest" and "indicate" certain technical items regarding alluvial systems, Roans Canyon Graben and Stiff diagrams.

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Manti-LaSal (MLS) National Forest is concerned about flow at the spring and has proposed to DOGM mitigation measures in the May 17, 1999 letter. However, in order for the Division to consider implementing your proposed mitigation measures, the MLS must present a more convincing technical case than that which we have already reviewed in our own memo.

Thank you for your comments on this matter. They have been reviewed and considered.

Sincerely,



Mary Ann Wright
Associate Director, Mining

cc: Richard Manus, BLM
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