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FOREST SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE  
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Mary Ann*

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*Pam, Jim Smith*

TO: Pam Grubbaugh - Littig FAX #: 801-359-3940  
FROM: Dale Harber  
SUBJECT: Cottonwood Spring letter  
TOTAL PAGES INCLUDING COVER PAGE: 3  
COMMENTS

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OCT 23 2001

DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS AND MINING



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Manti-La Sal  
National Forest

Supervisor's Office  
599 West Price River Drive  
Price, UT 84501  
Phone # (435) 637-2817  
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File Code: 2820-4  
Date: October 2, 2001

Sally Wisely  
Utah State Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
324 South State Street  
P.O. Box 45155  
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155

Dear Sally:

This letter is in regard to the issue of Cottonwood Spring/Creek as it relates to PacifiCorp's Deer Creek Mine and PacifiCorp's Phase III lease relinquishment request.

PacifiCorp collected flow measurements in Cottonwood Creek in the vicinity of Cottonwood Spring for the past three years as requested in our letters to the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, dated May 17, 1999, and BLM Utah State Director, dated September 1, 2000 and October 6, 2000. The monitoring was requested by the Forest Service to document whether perennial flow had returned to the reach of stream beginning at Cottonwood Spring. Item A of the letter to UDOGM states that if the monitoring data and gain/loss study continue to indicate that Cottonwood Creek performs similar to the 1979 USGS Study, after adjusting for climatic conditions, and that perennial flow has been restored to Cottonwood Creek, we would agree that the Cottonwood Spring/Creek issue has been resolved.

The last recorded flow of 4 gallons per minute (gpm) from Cottonwood Spring occurred in August 1989. Subsequent monitoring from September 1989 to November 1992 recorded zero discharge. According to Energy West (operator of Deer Creek Mine), 1998 was the first year that perennial flow returned to Cottonwood Creek above Roans Canyon since Cottonwood Spring ceased flowing in 1989.

PacifiCorp conducted three years of streamflow measurements (1998, 1999 and 2000). The first year's measurement taken in November 1998 (197.0 gpm) was recorded immediately after a wet snow. The following year 115.6 gpm was recorded in October 1999. The third year, October 2000, a flow of 39.6 gpm was recorded in Cottonwood Creek at the former location of the spring during a drought year.

For comparison, the baseflows recorded at Cottonwood Spring in two separate USGS studies (Water Resources Investigations, Open-File Report, 81-539, 1981 and Water-Supply Paper 2259, 1985) were:

USGS Water Resources Investigations, OFR 81-539

September 6, 1978	37 gpm
October 9, 1978	38 gpm
October 13, 1978	41 gpm
August 28, 1979	55 gpm

USGS Water-Supply Paper 2259

September 1978	37 gpm
September 1979	56 gpm



September 24, 1981  
September 8, 1982

76 gpm  
110 gpm

These data indicate that the flow to Cottonwood Creek in the vicinity of Cottonwood Spring has most likely been restored through natural processes, even though flow from the PVC pipe at the Cottonwood Spring location has not resumed. The recent data are within the range collected at Cottonwood Spring by past investigators.

In conclusion, the Manti-La Sal National Forest concurs that no further action is necessary regarding this issue relative to the Deer Creek Mine Permit. In regard to PacifiCorp's Phase III lease relinquishment request and our July 15, 1999 letter to BLM, the Cottonwood Spring issue discussed on Page 2, under U-084923, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, has been resolved. The monitoring information provided by PacifiCorp for the spring should be referenced in the Phase III final monitoring report revision. Other issues noted in our letter to BLM regarding the Phase III relinquishment need to be addressed to be consistent with Federal Coal Lease Special Stipulations.

If you have any questions, please contact us at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Price, Utah.

Sincerely,

  
ELAINE J. ZIEROTH  
Forest Supervisor