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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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June 21, 1988

Ms. Mary Koltenuk
Division of Environmental Health
Bureau of Water Pollution Control
Room 4100, State Office Building
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110

Dear Ms. Koltenuk:

Re: Mine Water Discharge, Co-Op Mining Company, Bear Canyon Mine,
ACT/015/025, Folder #2, Emery County, Utah

On June 14, 1988, during an inspection of the Bear Canyon Mine, mine water discharge was observed overflowing from the water tank located above and behind the shop/shower building, into a diversion that directly empties into Bear Creek. Flow was estimated to be, at 10:30 a.m., approximately two to three gallons per minute. At 1:30 p.m., flow had ceased, presumably due to the mine sump pump being inactive.

Review of the operator's NPDES Permit (UT-0023612) indicates discharge may only occur from the two sediment ponds located on the mine site. It appears that on June 14, 1988, the operator was not in compliance with approved and "administratively extended" NPDES Permit.

I would appreciate knowing whether, in fact, the above-described discharge was in compliance with the NPDES Permit, and, if in the future similar discharges are observed during inspections, whether Water Pollution Control would prefer Oil, Gas and Mining to issue violations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard V. Smith".

Richard V. Smith
Geologist

djh

cc: J. Whitehead
W. Malencik, PFO

W. Warmack, PFO

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