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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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September 16, 1991

Mr. Wendell Owen
Co-Op Mining Company
P.O. Box 1245
Huntington, Utah 84528

Dear Mr. Owen:

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

Division personnel recently took samples at Birch Springs and noted that Co-Op Mining Company may not be following proper sampling procedures, as required by the Order from the Informal Hearing (Item #26, dated May 20, 1991). In addition to improper sample collection, there appears to be a long delay between sample collection and sample analysis (i.e., the time between sample collection and receipt of sample by the laboratory is inordinately long and could effect to quality of the results).

It is imperative that acceptable sample collection, custodial methods, and analyses be followed at all times. The Division recommends EPA sampling and custodial procedures as outlined in "Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater" (see Utah Coal Regulations R614-301-723).

Please note that on all future analysis, the time the sample was collected, received by the lab, and analyzed must be noted on the lab data sheet. Also, note that samples must be collected from the locked box, as required in the Order, not from the overflow pipe.

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Failure to comply with proper sampling procedures and the Order will result in issuance of notices of violation and may jeopardize permitting and access to Co-Op Mining Company's federal coal leases.

If you have any questions, please call me.

Sincerely,



Pamela Grubaugh-Littig
Permit Supervisor

jbe
cc: Eldon Kingston
Kim Mangum
Lowell Braxton
Joe Helfrich
Tom Munson
Ken Wyatt

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