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FILED

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SECRETARY, BOARD OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

IN AND BEFORE THE UTAH STATE DIVISION
OF OIL, GAS, AND MINING

COPY

In the Matter of the Tank Seam
Application of Co-Op Mining
Company, Bear Canyon Mine,
Emery County, Utah,
ACT/015/025

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Objection of Castle Valley
Special Service District
to Co-Op's Application to
Extend Mining into Tank
Seam

Castle Valley Special Service District ("Castle Valley"), by and through its counsel, Appel & Mattsson, hereby submits this Objection to Co-Op's Application to Extend Mining into the Tank Seam, located above the existing seam within the existing permit area of the Bear Canyon Mine (ACT/015/025).

The grounds for the Objection are as follows:

1. Castle Valley is a local government entity that provides culinary water to Huntington, Cleveland and Elmo, Utah. Castle Valley provides water for 1,050 connections (which includes at least 2650 persons) from springs located in the proximity of Co-Op's mining operations, including Big Bear Canyon Springs.

2. A major portion of Huntington City's culinary water supply

is diverted from Big Bear Canyon Springs, which is in the area of Co-Op's mining operations.

3. Castle Valley is concerned that Co-Op has not taken adequate measures to protect Castle Valley's water sources either in its present mining areas or in its proposed mining area within the Tank Seam. Castle Valley is particularly concerned about the continuing integrity of its water sources given Co-Op's past problems in this regard. The following are illustrations of Castle Valley's concerns:

a. Co-Op's past mining operations have contaminated Big Bear Canyon Springs and the aquifers feeding the springs.

b. Co-Op's past mining operations have adversely and permanently impacted the level of flow of Big Bear Canyon Springs. The flows have significantly diminished as a result of Co-Op's mining operations and have not recovered and/or recharged even after the most recent "wet" water year.

c. Over the years, Co-Op has been cited by the DOGM for failing to adequately protect the hydrologic resources in the proximity of its mining operations.

4. Castle Valley is concerned that Co-Op's proposed expansion of its mining operations into the Tank Seam will have an adverse impact upon Big Bear Canyon Springs and the aquifers feeding the springs.

5. Castle Valley believes Co-Op's proposed expansion may harm

the vested water rights of Castle Valley and water users whose points of diversion are located below Co-Op's proposed operations. These water sources including Big Bear Canyon Springs, represent critical and irreplaceable sources of water for several adjacent towns and communities.

WHEREFORE, Castle Valley, requests that Co-Op's Application to expand into the Tank Seam be rejected and that it be entitled to participate in a hearing on the matter.

Castle Valley further requests that it be kept apprised of all current or proposed Co-Op mining operations that may impact the quality and/or quantity of its water sources.

DATED this 12th day of August, 1993.



Jeffrey W. Appel
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Attorneys for Castle Valley