

October 20, 1978

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Mr. Darrel Hintze
Mineral Specialist
United States Forest Service
55 South First East
Richfield, Utah 84701

Dear Mr. Hintze:

Thank you for sending me a copy of your October 17, 1978 memorandum to the District Ranger, Richfield Ranger District.

There are two observations that I would like to make. First, Mr. Travis of the Geological Survey has informed Mr. Darrau of the Office of Surface Mining that the expansion of the fill has not yet been approved by the Geological Survey. Second, as the practice of end-dumping off of the fill is considered to be in violation of the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1977, the site cannot be used in this manner for waste disposal until the conflict is properly resolved. It is my sincere hope that SUFCO and the governmental agencies can resolve the conflict in the very near future in a reasonable way that satisfies the intent of P.L. 95-87.

The Division is looking forward to your input in the future for this mine and others in your district.

Sincerely,

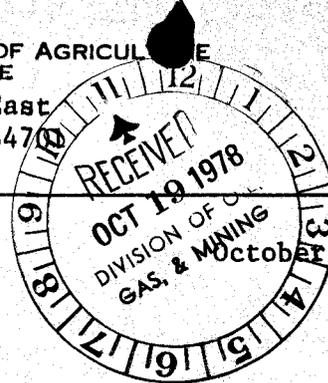
K. MICHAEL THOMPSON
ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST

KMP/sp

enc: U.S.F.S. Memo dated: 10-17-78
cc: Larry Darrau, O.S.M., Denver

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

55 South First East
Richfield, Utah 84701



October 17, 1978

REPLY TO: 2820 Leases and Permits

SUBJECT: SUFCO Convulsion Mine

TO: District Ranger, Richfield Ranger District



On October 10, 1978, a joint meeting was held between the Forest Service, State of Utah, the Office of Surface Management, and Southern Utah Coal Company at the Convulsion Mine. The purpose of the meeting was to coordinate surface changes planned or being done at the Convulsion Mine to increase coal production. As you are aware, Federal legislation has changed the regulatory authority from the Geological Survey to individual States where mining occurs on Federal lands within the State. The Office of Surface Management is the Federal agency to act as liaison between Federal and State Government. However, just how the transition will be done is still being resolved. Memorandums of Understanding need to be completed between government agencies.

In the meantime the Convulsion Mine is continuing to make changes needed to increase coal production. These changes include a new crushing/screen tower, a sampler transfer tower, a mine run coal stockpile and reclaim system, retaining walls to protect the power substation and other facilities from a threatening slump and falling rock, and extension of the culvert at the spoils material site to mitigate potential pollution by gob into Convulsion Canyon.

Environmental Analysis Reports have been completed by both the Forest Service (9/12/75), and the Geologic Survey (9/30/77), for operation of the Convulsion Mine. These reports recognize that expansion will occur to achieve mining of approximately 2.1 million tons of coal annually. An addendum will be prepared to address impacts not covered in these original reports.

At our meeting, three primary changes were looked at: (1) Retaining walls to protect surface facilities from slumping soil and falling rock. All people present were in concurrence with what is being done or will be done to mitigate this adverse situation. (2) The new area for a mine-run coal stockpile and reclaim system. This project will require removal of approximately 4500 cubic yards of soil and rock material. This material will be put behind the retaining wall in the slump area. This will make the slope ratio 2:1 and should help stabilize the slump. All present were in concurrence with this project. (3) The

extension of the culvert at the spoils material site and continued use of the dump area. Mr. Damrau, the OSM representative, didn't feel comfortable with this situation. He felt some other arrangement should be made for disposal of spoil material away from Convulsion Canyon. Mr. Thompson, the State representative, felt as we do that the current method was causing the least adverse impact. Mr. Damrau was asked to come up with a better site. Until this is done the current site will continue to be used, as has been done for many years.

Since the Convulsion Mine is on USFS administered lands, the mine people will continue to make initial contact with us about surface situations on the lease. We will contact the state people and they will inform OSM as need be.

SUFCO will continue with the changes approved by the Geological Survey and concurred by us.

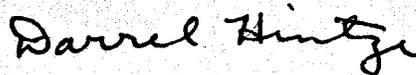
Representatives of the Forest Service at the meeting were Darrel Hintze, Lynn Findlay, and Don Marchant.

The State of Utah was represented by Mike Thompson from the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining.

The office of Surface Management was represented by Larry Damrau.

SUFCO was represented by Roland Heath and Dal Dimick.

Sincerely,



DARREL HINTZE
Mineral Specialist