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State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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mine file

October 17, 1994

J. K. Eardley
2433 South Highway 10
Price, Utah 84501

Re: Response to Concern, Letter Received September 26, 1994, Convulsion Canyon Mine, Southern Utah Fuel Company, ACT/041/002, Citizen's Complaint File and Folder #5, Sevier County, Utah

Dear Mr. Eardley:

In response to your letter of concern about "the depletion of the surface water and drying up the wetlands by undermining the area", an inspection was conducted on September 29, 1994. In attendance were: Jim Smith and Pete Hess, representing the Division, Wes Sorenson and Keith Welch representing Southern Utah Fuel Company (SUFCO), and yourself, representing the Quitcupah Cattleman's Association. Maps and other data were examined in the SUFCO offices and an on-the-ground inspection of the area followed in Mud Springs Hollow and Duncan Draw.

None of the mine workings directly underlie the areas of Mud Spring Hollow or Duncan Draw, the area of concern. The latest mining in this surrounding area was with longwall equipment in the northern part of Section 36 in 1992, in the southern part of Section 36 from 1978-1983. Other mining occurred in the southern half of Section 25 with longwall mining in 1989-1991, in the north half of Sec. 1 in 1974 to 1978. Mining in the remainder of Section 1 and Section 12 dates back to the 1940's and continued into the 1960's. Except for the main entries, the mine working in these sections have been sealed. (See Figure 1)

There were no visual signs of subsidence cracks and no visible evidence of recent or renewed movement on faults in Mud Spring Hollow or Duncan Draw. Soil was cracked because of the lack of moisture, but did not appear to be deeper than one foot, and were generally parallel to the axis of the drainage.

SUFCO's records document a steadily decline in stream and spring flows since 1983. USGS flow data for Muddy Creek show that 1980 to 1986 was a period of above average streamflow. Flow decreased steadily from the peak in 1983 until 1990, and has been below average from 1988 to 1994. It was acknowledged by all

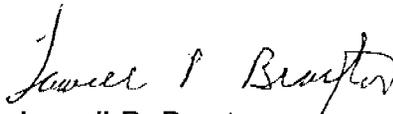
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parties that a prolonged drought is occurring in the area.

Based on the evaluation of data from SUFCO and other sources and from the field inspection, the decline in spring discharges in Mud Spring Hollow and Duncan Draw appears to be the result of the prolonged drought. The water currently being pumped from the mine is from areas that are several miles away and has no direct hydrologic connection with the Duncan Draw - Mud Spring Hollow area.

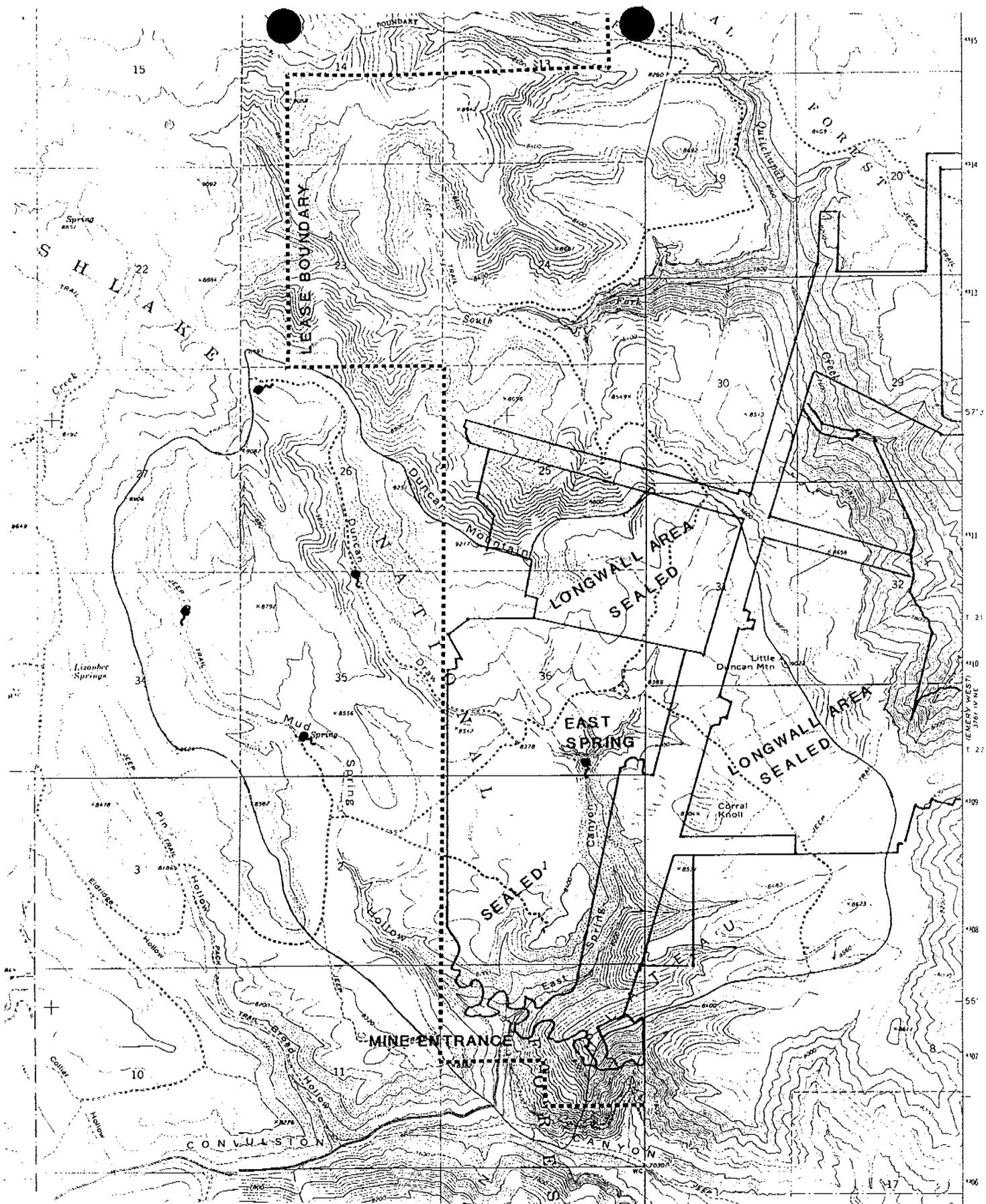
I hope that this inspection and review of available data is helpful to you. If you wish to pursue this issue further, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Lowell P. Braxton
Associate Director, Mining

cc: Ken May, SUFCO
Pamela Grubaugh-Littig
Daron Haddock
Jim Smith
Pete Hess



SPRINGS

FIGURE 1