

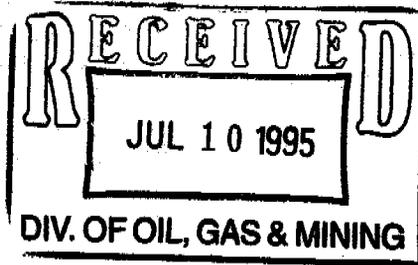
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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Manti-La Sal
National Forest

599 West Price River Dr.
Price, Utah 84501
(801) 637-2817



File Code: 2820

Date: July 6, 1995

Ken May
Southern Utah Fuel Company
397 South 800 West
Salina, Utah 84654

Copy Darin & Jole
ACT/041/002 #2

Dear Mr. May:

We received your letter dated June 22, 1995, in regard to Rock Pond within the permit area for the SUFCO Mine on July 3, 1995. Your expeditious action on this matter is appreciated.

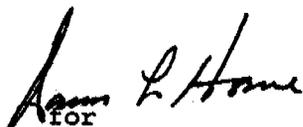
As discussed during our joint inspection of Rock Pond on June 21, we concur with your proposal to haul water to Johnson and Hans Ponds this season to replace the loss of water from subsidence until July 4. We also concur with your proposal to seal the subsidence cracks with bentonite this fall. The presence of an extensive fracture system in the Castlegate Sandstone that has sealed naturally and data from monitoring of subsidence cracks in the vicinity indicate that the cracks will seal naturally over time, however action is needed to prevent the loss of water for cattle over both the short and long-term. Since the allotment will not be grazed during the 1996 season, we have an opportunity to monitor the success of crack sealing efforts without disturbance from the cattle and the need to haul additional water.

Low snowpack in the vicinity of the ponds may have been a factor that contributed to the lack of water in Rock Pond, however we feel that there is clear evidence that the surface cracks in the drainage intercepted surface flow and diverted it underground. The location of surface cracks in the drainage, capacity water levels observed in the other ponds outside of the subsided area, and historic data on water levels in Rock pond indicate that the snowpack was adequate to fill the pond.

Since effective sealing of the cracks by natural and artificial processes will take several years and mining will progress under the remaining ponds within the next few years, we feel that development of a plan to monitor and prevent/mitigate the potential loss of water needs to be developed by SUFCo. The plan will be subject to review and approval by the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining and Forest Service. Of particular importance is Box pond which is the major water source for the allotment and is large enough to retain water year-round.

If you have any questions or need additional information, contact Jeff DeFreest or Carter Reed at the Forest Service Office in Price, Utah.

Sincerely,



FOR
JANETTE S. KAISER
Forest Supervisor

CC:

Pam Littig, UDOGM

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R.Player