

MEMORANDUM

October 30, 2003

TO: Internal File

THRU: Daron R. Haddock, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Steve Fluke, Reclamation Hydrogeologist

RE: Link Canyon Portal Discharge, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC, SUFCO Mine, C/041/0002

I spoke with Mike Davis of the SUFCO Mine and Tom Lloyd of the Manti-La Sal National Forest regarding the lack of discharge from the Link Canyon west portal. When SUFCO broke through from the west portal into the old mine workings this summer, it was expected that sufficient water would be encountered to maintain the riparian area (mostly willows) below the west portal area. However, only minor seeps were encountered. Because the mine has committed to maintaining the natural discharge from the west portal during use and after reclamation, either a plan must be enacted to discharge from the mine or the permit must be amended.

Mike Davis revisited the portal with forest service personnel on October 7, 2003, and observed that some water is beginning to collect in the west portal. We thought it is possible that flow will return to the portal with wetter spring conditions. We agreed that it would be best to wait until next spring to decide if flow will return to the portal or if the permit needs amending.

Tom Lloyd was contacted to inform him of the portal conditions and Mike Davis' and my decision to wait until next spring to decide if the permit needs amending. Tom was not surprised that little water is seeping at the portal area given the high evaporative water loss from airflow through the portal into the mine. He stated that, in his opinion, SUFCO had adequately mitigated any potential loss of water at the Link Canyon portal area by protecting the springs GW-21 and Pines 100, also located in Link Canyon. In addition, he thought it would be difficult to permit discharge at the portal area to mitigate natural flow because the forest service has a zero tolerance discharge policy from mine workings onto forestland. Tom will present that argument to his office. He agreed that our decision to wait until spring and possibly amend the permit is reasonable.