

March 29, 1978

Memo to File:

Re: Utah Coal & Energy  
Blawk Hawk Mine  
ACT/043/001

On March 27th 1978, Brian Buck visited this mine. At the time of the visit, there was considerable activity in the mine yard. A lot of obsolete mining equipment was standing around in various states of renovation, none appeared to be operating. Two portals were driven into the faced off coal seam. Entry into the portals is via a deep pit out of which the coal is conveyed. At the time of the visit, water was running down into the pit from above the portals and ponding in the lower portal. No provision for dewatering the pit was observed, in fact, Brian was informed by a Mr. David Wurth that the lower portal was a "mistake" and was to be abandoned "someday". He also mentioned another portal was proposed higher up on the mountain but that at the present time it was in the planning stages. The high and near vertical cut wall above the main portal was in a state of minor motion. It was apparent that a substantial failure has occurred which cut off the ventilation system to the tunnel. Mr. Wurth explained that the Bureau of Mines had just lifted a mine closure order that morning. The closure was ordered because of the dangerous and failing highwalls.

Brian asked Mr. Wurth for a map of the surface and was informed that a copy of one would be sent by Wurth or by Charles Shannon, the engineer.

This operation, as presently managed, has very little chance of ever becoming a viable coal mine. There is little apparent planning and much less regard for the requirements of this office. The present activity is supposedly confined to Fee land, but the Mining and Reclamation Plan does not even have the township and range listed. A check with the Division of State Lands showed that Utah Coal & Energy assigned its State Lease in Section 36, Township 3 North, Range 6 East to Mr. Joe Lyons on January 10th 1977.

✓ A comprehensive review of the plan as submitted on November 16th 1977 by Mr. Cafarelli should be made as soon as possible and the surety should be obtained. This operation is taking advantage of the Division's good nature in not replying to Division requests.

BRIAN W. BUCK  
ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST

/tlb