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

Michael O. Leavitt  
Governor  
Ted Stewart  
Executive Director  
James W. Carter  
Division Director

355 West North Temple  
3 Triad Center, Suite 350  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203  
801-538-5340  
801-359-3940 (Fax)  
801-538-5319 (TDD)

3: Mine file  
cc Randy Hardin JB  
D. Hubbard 3-2-94  
LPR

February 23, 1994

TO: Lowell Braxton, Associate Director of Mining

THRU: Mary Ann Wright, Administrator *MW*  
Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program

FROM: Mark Mesch, Project Manager *MM*  
Chris Rohrer, Project Manager *CR*  
Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program

RE: Reclamation Design Issues at Boyer Mine INA/043/008

On a visit to the Boyer Mine (January 19, 1994) we noticed a few things that may have an impact on the final reclamation of this site. These are issues that we feel need to be addressed during this design stage. The issues are listed below:

- 1) The disturbed drainage channel bisecting the mine site. Will the reclamation plans reestablish this drainage? Will the coal refuse be buried away from the reconstructed drainage channel alignment?
- 2) There were a number of 55 gallon drums on site. Some seemed to contain residues of unidentified petroleum products. Will these drums be addressed in the development of the design? Will hazardous waste disposal or testing be required?
- 3) The electrical substation on site contains numerous transformers and there is a transformer shell on the bench near the scales. Have these (or the soil around them) been tested for PCB's? What is the plan for their disposal? What about the old mantrip and other mining equipment?
- 4) A July 29, 1992 analytical report showed the pH of three composite samples taken from the refuse piles to range from 2.5 to 3.3. Will the pH of the refuse piles be considered in the reclamation plans, such as by neutralization or use of a capillary barrier?

Our concern is that with limited reclamation funds available we will not be able to address all aspects of the reclamation required at this site. Will the reclamation design proceed on the assumption of performing "total" reclamation, with the scope of reclamation scaled back later to fit the funding, or will the initial design be based on what can be done with the current funding? Might a large portion of the funds be consumed through the testing of onsite materials or on hazardous waste disposal fees? Planning with an eye on these issues will result in a high level of success in both program cooperation and the final reclamation results.

