State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor
Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Don A. Ostler, P.E.
Director

288 North 1460 West
P.O. Box 144870
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870
(801) 538-6146 Voice
(801) 538-6016 Fax
(801) 536-4414 T.D.D.

RECEIVED
APR 27 1995
DIV OF OIL, GAS & MINING

M/047/017

April 25, 1995

Mr. Kouglas M. Koza
Deputy State Director, Mineral Resources
Bureau of Land Management
324 South State, Suite
Salt Lake City, Utah 84145

Re: White River Oil Shale Mine Closure

Dear Mr. Koza:

We appreciated the opportunity to review the report for closure of the referenced site prepared by your staff and the Vernal District Bureau of Land Management. We received this information on March 4, 1995. We understand that an approval from our office is not required in this case; however, our review is based on your request.

The White River Shale facility was turned over to the Bureau of Land Management on September 1986. White River Shale is located approximately 10 miles from Bonanza, Utah. The facility consists of 3 vertical shafts and 3 declines and one shaft and one decline intercept Birds Nest aquifer. Grout was injected into the aquifer were it intersects the shaft and the decline. At the bottom, the shaft intersects a Tuff zone that produces heavy paraffinic crude oil.

This project is for construction of a bulkhead below the Birds Nest aquifer in the 12.5 foot high by 18.5 foot wide shaft. This will block contaminated water from the Tuff zone from entering the Birds Nest aquifer. The shaft will then be flooded above the bulkhead by leaky aquifers in the shaft. The three shafts will than be sealed off at the surface with approximately 2 feet of concrete and the portal will be buried. A fence will be installed around the 16-foot diameter shaft after the concrete seal is constructed. The ventilation doors will be welded shut.

Printed on recycled paper

Based on our review, it appears to be an environmentally sound solution. We have no objection to your proceeding with the project.

If we can be of further assistance, please contact me or Mr. Lyle Stott of my staff.

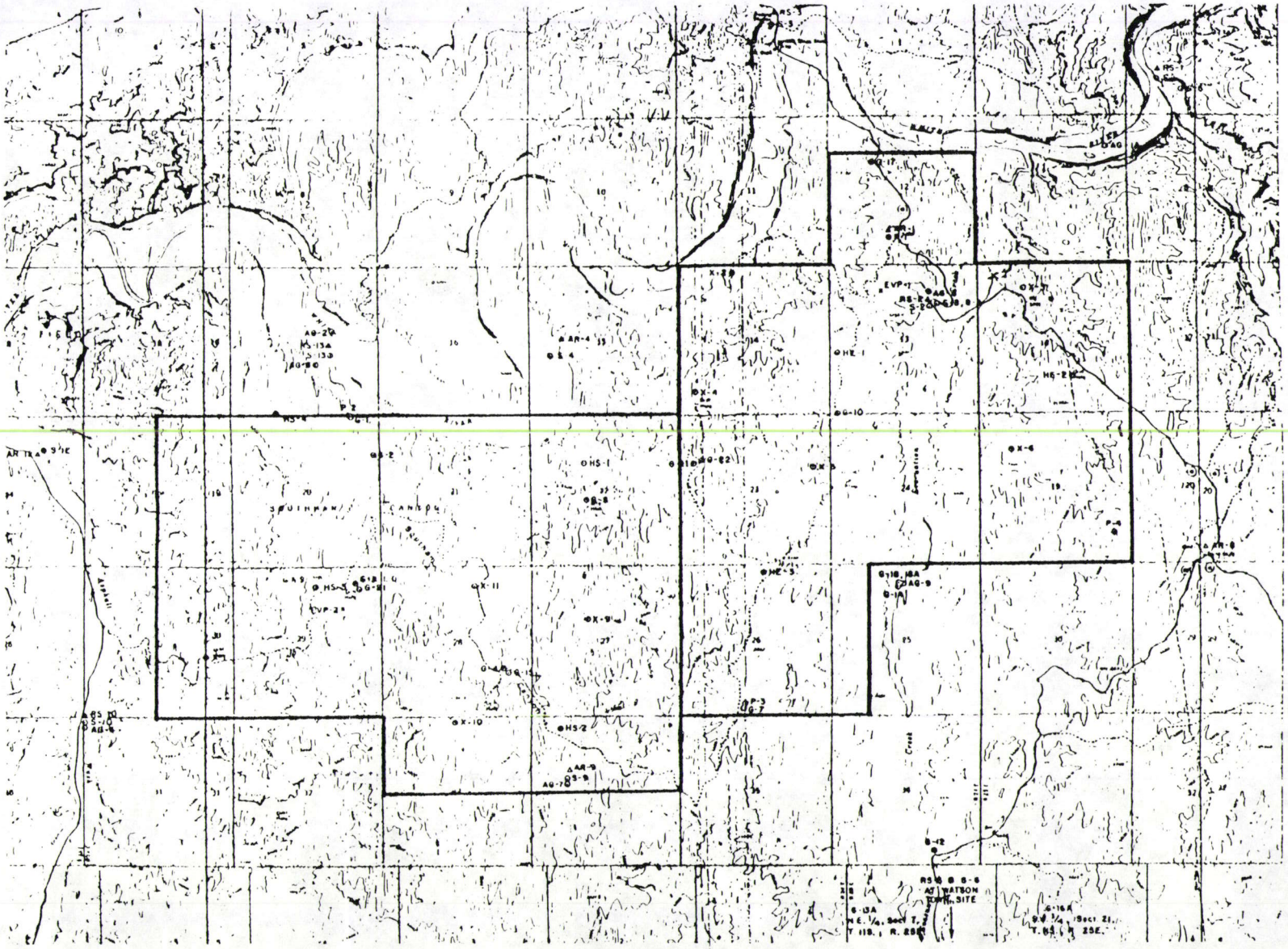
Sincerely,

for Don A. Ostler, P.E.
Director

DAO:LWS:erb

cc: Mr. Lowell Card - Uintah Basin Public Health Department
Mr. Ted Allen - Uintah Basin Public Health Department
Mr. Wayne Hedberg - Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

N:SHALE.AP:
FILE:WHITE RIVER SHALE



WHITE RIVER OIL SHALE PROJECT UaUb