

August 21, 2006

Eileen Richmond
Acting Forest Supervisor
U.S. Forest Service
Ferron/Price Ranger District
599 Price River Drive
Price, UT 84501

In response to the letter dated July 27, 2006, File Code 2820-4/1950:

Emery County Public Lands Department supports the Board of Directors of North Emery Water Users' Special Service District in their concern for impacts to surface water, particularly Birch Springs, from mining activity which would take place under the proposed modification of the permit change application.

In light of recent events involving impacts to surface water by underground mining activity (Skyline Mine and Electric Lake, SUFCO Mine and springs in the Box Flat area), we believe water replacement strategies for affected water sources should be in place prior to issuance of the mining plan modification.

Emery County Public Lands Department protests the issuance of this permit until such time as C.O.P Mining has satisfactorily mitigated a replacement water source for any affected surface or subsurface water.

Regards,

Ray D. Petersen
Emery County Public Lands Administrator