

JWS
LCS
7/19**EUREKA ENERGY COMPANY**

A SUBSIDIARY OF PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

77 BEALE STREET • SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94106 • (415) 781-4211 • TWX 910-372-6587

June 27, 1980

Mr. James Smith
Coordinator
Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
State of Utah
1588 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84116

Dear Mr. Smith:

Consultants and staff of Eureka Energy Company appreciated the opportunity to meet with Leland Spencer, Tom Suchoski, and Mary Ann Wright of your staff on June 16. The principal topic of the meeting was a discussion of steep slope requirements associated with portal pads in both Dugout & Fish Creek Canyons of Eureka's proposed Sage Point-Dugout Canyon Project. The following is our understanding of the principal points of the discussion.

1. DOG&M emphasized that, inasmuch as possible, reclamation work should be implemented as part of the initial construction. The slopes at the top of the "highwall" cut should be rounded. Any benches in the "highwall" above the portals should be reclaimed shortly after initial construction. Drainage off these "highwall" benches should be treated similar to a contour furrow with periodic baffels and with the bench sloping into the hill to prevent drainage from flowing over the outslope of the bench.
2. Because "highwalls" and benches will be left as part of the reclamation program, the cuts should be designed for long-term stability with an adequate safety factor.
3. Any wire mesh, qunite or concrete used on the "highwall" cuts for safety reasons during mining would have to be removed at the conclusion of the operations or blended into the background to appear natural.

RECEIVED
JUL 03 1980DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

4. The portal pad areas should be constructed with a cut-fill balance as much as practical, so that:
 - (a) additional material would not have to be brought in to build up the pad or,
 - (b) additional excess material would not have to be hauled to a rock-fill area.
5. The portal pad areas must be constructed for long-term stability. The culverts installed under the portal pads during mining will be designed to pass a 100-year 24-hour precipitation event.

The culvert used at Dugout Canyon will be removed at the conclusion of mining, and the stream channel restored to its approximate original state.

Removal of the culvert in Fish Creek Canyon at the conclusion of mining would not be recommended because of the amount of fill (approximately 50 feet at the greatest point) and the amount of environmental disturbance that its removal and disposal would cause. However, to eliminate the possibility of collapse of the culvert and the resulting subsidence at the surface, the culvert should be backfilled after the conclusion of mining with earth, gravel, lean concrete or other suitable material. The upstream and downstream ends of the culvert would be plugged with concrete to prevent piping.

6. At the conclusion of mining (following the back-filling of the culvert in Fish Creek Canyon), the stream channel will be constructed across the top of the portal area and allowed to cascade over the outslope of the portal pad. Again, Eureka Energy plans to insure the long-term stability of this cascade by using a gabion wier structure or other engineered means.
7. The post-mining land configuration in both the Fish Creek and Dugout Canyon will resemble the existing surface configuration by complementing the drainage pattern of the surrounding terrain and creating an area suitable for wildlife habitat. Recognizing the constraints imposed by the steep slopes of the canyons, Eureka Energy Company will design a postmining surface landscape that blends into and complements the existing topography.

8. In the permit application, Eureka Energy Company should mention the beneficial wildlife aspects of the planned postmining land use, especially for possible avian or raptor habitat in the "highwall" cuts.
9. Drainage ditches designed to divert water around the mine portal area during mine operation can be placed at the bottom of the first cut slope rather than at the top of the cut. This will reduce the amount of disturbance.

We understand that the State of Utah is continuing its efforts to acquire a State steep slope "window" that may be applicable to the situation described above for Fish Creek Canyon. In a related matter, Tom Suchoski noted that OSM and DOG&M have approved a steep slope variance for the Skyline Project that involves a seventy foot fill in the portal area over which postmining drainage will be engineered.

Please let me know if you have any comments or questions.

Very truly yours,



P. BRUCE BENZLER
Manager, Administrative
and Regulatory Services

JADavis(4093):bjj
13/CC

cc: PAnderson
AWCzarnowsky
RFGoudge
CJParr
KBracken