



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING  
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT  
Washington, D.C. 20240

RECEIVED

FEB 20 2002

DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS AND MINING

FEB 6 2002

Jack Hamilton, Assistant Director  
Utah Engineering Experiment Station  
1495 East 100 South, Room 138  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112

*Incoming  
C/007/013*

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

Thank you for your letter dated October 19, 2001, in which you requested help in identifying potential sources of funding for the Center for Mine Land Redevelopment. I apologize for the late response. It appears that your letter was delayed in one of the post offices undergoing treatment for possible anthrax contamination.

You stated that you are seeking grant opportunities both to support the Center's activities and for individual redevelopment projects. Funds appropriated to the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) originate from two sources: 1) the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Fund, which can only be used for specific purposes authorized by statute, and 2) general revenue funds that are used for Regulation and Technology issues. Most of the funds appropriated from the AML account are distributed to States and Tribes through formula-based grants. Absent express Congressional authorization, OSM is precluded from spending AML funds on projects such as the Center envisions. In addition, because of the targeted nature of OSM's Regulation and Technology appropriation, OSM would need express authorization from Congress as well as additional funds to provide funding for projects such as your attached example, the Horse Canyon Project.

The State of Utah receives annual grants for AML reclamation and maintains their own AML Program. If future projects proposed by the Center should involve reclamation of eligible lands subject to Title IV of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, you may wish to contact the AML Administrator, Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining, 1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801. Phone (801) 538-5349.

If you have any questions concerning this response, please contact Mr. Gene Krueger at (202) 208-2937.

Sincerely,

Glenda Owens  
Acting Director

cc: Utah AML Administrator  
FOD - Albuquerque



# Office of Surface Mining Correspondence Control Sheet

01/17/2002

Control ID	Action Office	Sender and Subject	Date In	Date Due
02-0016	3000	<b>Exec. Sec. #</b> <b>Letter of: 10/19/2001</b> <b>From: Hamilton, Jack</b> <b>Subject: Ltr to Director requesting for help identifying potential sources of funding for the Center for Mine Land Redevelopment</b>	01/17/2002	01/30/2002

## Surnames/Signatures

	<u>Target</u>	<u>Complete</u>
Action Office Response	01/28/2002	
Asst. Dir. of Program Office	01/29/2002	
OC Review	01/30/2002	
Director	01/30/2002	

- Comments:
- \* 1) Draft to OC
  - 2) Draft reviewed by OC for format
  - 3) Comments on draft returned by OC to action office
  - 4) Final pkg prepared by action office & sent to OC
  - \* 01/17 - Prepare response for Acting Director's signature.



October 19, 2001

Glenda Owens  
Acting Director  
Office of Surface Mining  
1951 Constitution Ave. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Owens:

The mining industry has long had a role of strategic and economic importance in our country. Unfortunately, far more mine closures than openings are now occurring, and the industry's future looks murky, at best. As mines close, many mining communities will suffer severe negative economic impacts when mineral resources are exhausted.

The Center for Mine Land Redevelopment at the University of Utah was created to help communities turn abandoned mine land into permanent, sustainable community assets. The former mining land becomes a tax base and a source of employment, community pride, and public involvement. The program has been well received by mining companies, communities, and local governments.

The Center for Mine Land Redevelopment at the University of Utah has organized a multi-disciplinary, multi-organizational research, training, technology transfer and outreach center that will help promote innovative solutions to mine redevelopment and reclamation, and will encourage sustainable development projects that will benefit mining communities

Our activities can really be summarized into three categories:

Identification of Opportunities – By being aware of abandoned mining properties and mine closures that have valuable assets in terms of infrastructure, location, or existing resources, we can begin the process of finding useful alternatives for these properties.

Facilitation of Redevelopment – We will bring together a variety of stakeholders in any redevelopment scenario, including property owners, potential developers, financiers, local government representatives, and interested citizens. Town meetings will be hosted to explore beneficial possibilities. We have the technical capabilities and can assist to find solutions to potential environmental liabilities.

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Information Transfer – We will encourage redevelopment by publishing success stories, writing and presenting papers, maintaining a web site, and producing informative materials such as brochures and CD ROMs. Some of this information will detail how to overcome financial, technical, environmental, and legal hurdles to achieve successful redevelopment.

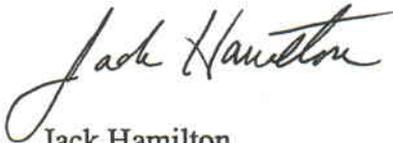
We believe that this center will provide a valuable service to the mining industry and the communities that support it. The principles involved apply to eastern mining as well as western mining; underground mining as well as open cast mining. I have attached some information about the Center and one of our projects at Horse Canyon, near Price, Utah.

The reason for this letter is a request for you to help us identify potential sources of funding for the Center for Mine Land Redevelopment. While some support is possible from stakeholders in the latter stages of a project, clearly, local communities and state and federal agencies must support much of what we do. We are seeking grant opportunities both to support the Center's activities and for individual redevelopment projects.

I will look forward to your reply and will appreciate any help that you can give us. Thank you. I can be reached by email at [jack.hamilton@m.cc.utah.edu](mailto:jack.hamilton@m.cc.utah.edu), phone at (801) 581-6348, or at:

Utah Engineering Experiment Station  
1495 East 100 South, Rm. 138  
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

Yours truly,



Jack Hamilton  
Assistant Director  
Utah Engineering Experiment Station



# Center for Mine Land Redevelopment

## MISSION STATEMENT

*"To encourage the planning for post-mining uses that benefit local economies and improve environmental conditions, while continuing the development of important mineral resources"*

Mines have been a source of economic strength in the West and have played a major role in the development of the region. Many small communities are heavily dependent upon mining and will suffer severe negative economic impacts when mineral resources are exhausted.

How much better it would be if a permanent sustainable asset within the community could remain after the mine has played out! The former mining land would then be a tax base, a source of employment, community pride and involvement. Moreover, the mine closure costs could potentially be reduced or offset, and those funds could be applied to more productive and beneficial activities.

## Center Functions

- Identify issues and concerns
- Present a discussion forum
- Form partnerships of universities, mining companies, federal and state agencies, local officials, organizations, and business leaders
- Provide training and technical assistance
- Facilitate collaborative research
- Assist in planning for mine closure
- Information transfer

## Center Partners

- University of Utah College of Mines and Earth Sciences
- Center for Public Policy & Administration
- Utah Engineering Experiment Station
- Wallace Stegner Law Center
- Bureau of Economic Business and Research
- Mining Life-Cycle Center at the University of Nevada-Reno

## Contact Information

For further information about the center, please contact:

**Dr. Michael Nelson, Co-Director**  
[mgnelson@mines.utah.edu](mailto:mgnelson@mines.utah.edu)  
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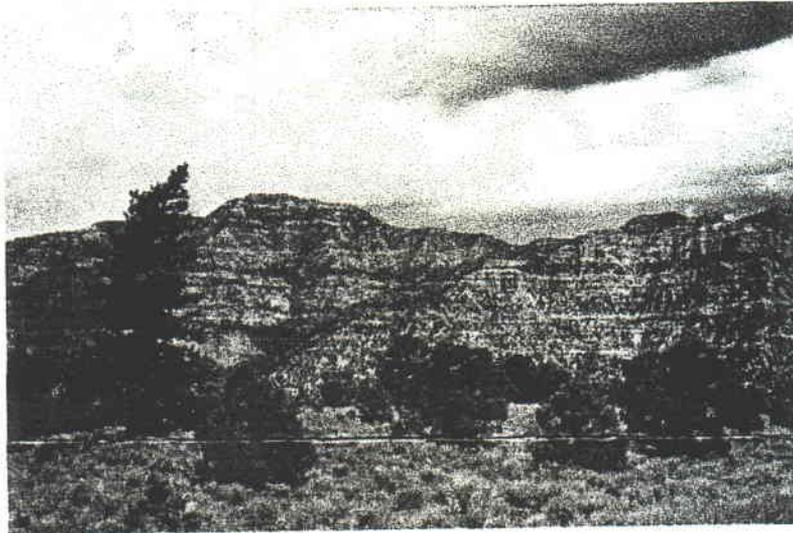
**Dr. Terrence Chatwin**  
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**Dr. Jack Hamilton**  
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## Horse Canyon Project



Horse Canyon is a stunningly beautiful canyon rising into the spectacular Book Cliffs of Utah. Any redevelopment scenario should take advantage of the fantastic natural setting of this site and its access to the upper Book Cliffs area. The Horse Canyon Mine is located a few miles south of the city of Price, Utah. The mine was a coal mine operated for years by Geneva Steel, and most recently by UtahAmerican Energy, Inc. Four principal buildings are located on 3-4 acres of the mine property at the mouth of Horse Canyon: a large warehouse building, a corrugated metal shop building, a bathhouse, and an office building. Utah American must remove or otherwise deal with the now-abandoned buildings in order to complete its obligations for reclamation on the property and obtain release of its reclamation bond. The facility is the gateway to 115,000 acres of multiple-use BLM land.

The Center decided to explore the possibility of establishing a field camp for Utah universities at the Horse Canyon site. In the initial concept, the camp would be a place where students and researchers could come and stay while studying a variety of subjects, including geology, ecology, botany, biology, and other natural sciences. Other, unrelated, disciplines, such as art, psychology - the list is almost endless - could use the facility for retreats and training. Workshops and short courses could be held at the camp. In addition, other universities could lease the facility for their use. The Book Cliffs area is ideal for geology because the Book Cliffs is the uppermost step of the Grand Staircase, one of the most dramatic geological provinces in the world. It is within easy driving distance of Moab, Canyonlands National Park, Arches National Park, Capitol Reef National Park, the San Rafael Swell, the igneous LaSalle Mountains, and many other world-class geological features. Several world-class dinosaur quarries are within a 25-mile radius of Horse Canyon. Ecologists and other scientists will find a similar wealth and diversity of natural subjects to study. Graduate students doing research for a Master's Degree or Doctorate could use the facility as a field base.

The operator of the facility will be the College of Eastern Utah (CEU), since it is located in Price, only a few miles north of Horse Canyon. The facility will not only be a financial asset for CEU, but also will attract outside students and serve to strengthen natural sciences programs within the College.