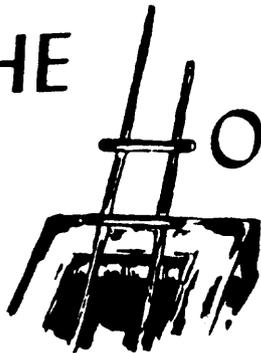


THE HOPI TRIBE



Ivan L. Sidney, Sr.
CHAIRMAN

Todd Honyaoma, Sr.
VICE-CHAIRMAN

Hopi Cultural Preservation Office

February 13, 2006

Mary Ann Wright, Associate Director, Mining
State of Utah, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210, P.O. Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

RECEIVED

FEB 17 2006

DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

Dear Ms. Wright,

This letter is in response to your correspondence on behalf of the Office of Surface Mining dated January 9, 2006, regarding the Lila Canyon Extension of the Horse Canyon Mine. The Hopi Tribe claims cultural affiliation to prehistoric cultural groups in Utah, and therefore we appreciate your continuing solicitation of our input and your efforts to address our concerns.

The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office supports the identification and avoidance of prehistoric archaeological sites and Traditional Cultural Properties. We understand 42 acres of the 4,660 acre project area has been surveyed for cultural resources. Your letter states, "There are two sites within the permit area (42EM2255 and 42EM2256) and are located above the underground mining area." Your letter does not indicate whether these sites are historic or prehistoric, or whether these sites will be affected by the project.

Therefore, we request further consultation on this project. Please provide us with a copy of the survey report, a description of the area of potential effects, and a recommendation for a finding by the State Historic Preservation Office as to whether this project may adversely affect National Register eligible prehistoric cultural resources.

For your information and future correspondences, Ivan Sidney is now Chairman of the Hopi Tribe. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Terry Morgart at the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,


Leigh J. Kuwanwisiwma, Director
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office

xc: Utah State Historic Preservation Office