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STATE OF UTAH  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MAR 25 1983

Division of  
State History  
(UTAH STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY)

MELVIN T. SMITH, DIRECTOR  
300 RIO GRANDE  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84101-1182  
TELEPHONE 801/533-5755

March 22, 1983

James W. Smith  
Attn: Steve Cox  
Division of Oil, Gas & Mining  
4241 State Office Building  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

RECEIVED  
MAR 25 1983

RE: Gordon Creek No. 2 Mine

DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING

Dear Mr. Smith:

The Utah Preservation Office has received for consideration a copy of the amended mining and reclamation plan for the Gordon Creek No. 2 Mine in Carbon County, Utah. After review of the material, our office has the following comments for consideration by the Division of Oil, Gas & Mining. Our office would recommend that consideration be given to some of these areas before its submittal as an adequate mine plan concerning cultural resources.

The historical overview seems adequate, but inconsistencies do exist. Mainly, the report identifies four historical archeological sites, 42Cb209 - 212. These cabin sites were discussed briefly but were marked as "non-significant" on the site forms in the appendix with regards to National Register potential. This is inconsistent with a statement made made concerning them on pages 5-24 of the plans, which stated:

These four historic archaeological sites represent the beginning of a significant trend in land use in the area which continued until today.

This latter statement appears to justify why these sites might be significant. There is a discrepancy in eligibility determination.

Despite these inconsistencies, the report does note that "The current mine plan does not call for any actions resulting in impacts to the historic sites identified above." Yet it went on to read, "However, if the Gordon Creek No. 2 Mine operation presents any additional significant impact to those sites, Beaver Creek will consider registering them on the National Register of Historic Places." This again indicates that there may be some case for eligibility of the sites, and it also supports the eligibility of these sites.

The main problem with the material is that, before submission to the Office of Surface Mining, the eligibility needs to be determined so that the project managers, and the Office of Surface Mining, along with the Division of Oil, Gas & Mining can make a recommendation for concurrence on the determination of eligibility for these sites.

The above is provided on request as information or assistance. We make no regulatory requirement, since that responsibility rests with the federal agency official. However, if you have questions or need additional assistance, please let us know. Contact Jim Dykman at 533-7039.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melvin T. Smith". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Melvin T. Smith  
Director and  
State Historic Preservation Officer

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