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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

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June 29, 2009

Ms. Lori Hunsaker
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Division of State History
300 S. Rio Grande Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Subject: SPUT-589

Dear Ms. Hunsaker:

Please find enclosed a document titled, "An Intensive Cultural Resource Survey and Inventory of the Water Reclamation Project for the West Ridge Mine". This document is being submitted in support of this agency's U.C.A. §9-8-404 consultation requirements for the proposed undertaking.

Two eligible sites were found as a result of this survey. The researcher suggested that the sites be avoided and therefore the activities will have no effect on the sites.

Thank you for your comments on this case. Should you have any further questions, please contact me at 801-538-5325 or by email at daronhaddock@utah.gov.

Sincerely,

Daron Haddock
Permit Supervisor

DRH/IW/sqs

Enclosures:

An Intensive Cultural Resource Survey and Inventory of the Water Reclamation Project for the West Ridge Mine, SPUT-589.

cc: Kelly Beck, PLPCO

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**An Intensive Cultural Resource Survey and Inventory
of the Water Reclamation Project for the West Ridge Mine**

BLM, SITLA and Private Land

Carbon County, Utah

**PERFORMED FOR
West Ridge Mine of
UtahAmerican Energy, Inc.**

**In Accordance with BLM and
Utah State Guidelines
Antiquities Permit #U09SC0065bsp**

**SPUT-589
March 14, 2008**

John A. Senulis

Direct Charge of Fieldwork

Abstract

The West Ridge Mine of Utah American Energy, Inc. has proposed two retention ponds along Bear Creek on BLM land. They will be accessed by existing roads on SITLA and Private land. In addition, a proposed 110 acre facility area on SITLA land was added as the survey was in progress. SENCO-PHENIX performed an intensive cultural resource survey on the various project areas. The purpose of the survey was to identify and evaluate cultural resources that may exist within the project area.

Cultural resources were located consisting of the following:

- **42CB2764** The site is the remains of the historic homestead of George Newton Hill. Hill patented the site in 1919 and filed with the county in 1936. The site contains the remains of a house with attached dugout, a rock lined well/cistern, several corrals and fences, an earthen dam and a dump, which may contain intact buried remains. One unusual feature of the site is that the corrals and some of the fences were wired with electrical transmission wire. The first powerline right of way was filed in 1923 and the fencing probably post dates the construction of the original powerline.

The site is recommended as eligible under criterion (a) event, which is the agrarian settlement of the upper Clark's Valley. There is no famous person (b) that can be associated with the site so that criterion is not applicable. The site seems typical of early Twentieth Century homesteads, except for the use of electrical transmission wire for fences so the site is not eligible under the criterion for design /construction (c). The presence of a dump indicates the presence of buried cultural material that would aid our understanding of early historical homesteads and the site is eligible under criterion (d).

The following isolated finds are not recommended for nomination to the NRHP.

- **IF 1** is two rusted hinged lid tobacco tins and 5 pieces of milled 1 by 4 lumber scraps. They were located at 539285 meters east and 4378192 meters north.
- **IF 2** is a rusted and flattened sardine tin and a rusted square quart metal container. They were found at 541445 meters east and 4379991 meters north.
- **IF 3** is 10+ brown glass fragments and a lid to a sanitary can. They were found at 540464 meters east and 4379557 meters north.

No other cultural resources were located and the potential for undetected remains is remote. A stipulation is recommended that archeological site 42CB2764 should be flagged and avoided during any road construction. If the stipulation is accepted, then a finding of **no effect** is appropriate and **archeological clearance** is recommended.

- 2008, SENCO-PHENIX surveyed a block and access corridor in the Left Fork of Bear Creek Canyon. No significant cultural resources were located. (08-737)
- 2008, SENCO-PHENIX surveyed a block for a gob vent hole in the Right Fork of Bear Canyon. No cultural resources were located. (08-871)

In addition to the File search, the GLO maps of 1915 were examined for Township 14 and 15 South, both Range 12 East. The road from "Soldier Canyon to Sunnyside" was noted as possibly being in the project area. There was also a homestead noted in Sections 1 and 2, T15S, R12E. The homestead belonged to "R. M. Gailbraith." Both the road and the homestead have been obscured by later construction, including the construction, agricultural, and ranching uses of site 42CB2764. A title search at the Carbon County courthouse was conducted on March 11, 2009 to determine ownership of site 42CB2764.

Methodology

John & Jeanne Senulis of SENCO-PHENIX performed a Class III intensive walkover survey of the two reclamation areas, access corridors and block area on February 24, 25, 26, and March 2, 3, 2009. Meandering parallel transects no further spaced than 15 meters were employed. The 1-2 acre reclamation areas were surveyed with a ca. 8 acre buffer. The access corridors were surveyed to a maximum width of 100 feet on the existing roads. The block was surveyed with the use of UTM coordinates and gps units to determine boundaries. The archeologists flagged the corners of the block survey area. Special attention was given to those areas of subsurface soil exposure from animal burrowing and erosion. There was 5% snow cover when the survey began and less than 2% snow cover at the end of the survey.

When a site was located, the artifacts were pinflagged and the site was photographed. The site was plotted using a WAAS enabled GPS unit. The readings were then transferred to the ArcView mapping program as a permanent database. All field notes and digital photographs are on file at the offices of SENCO-PHENIX in Price, Utah.

Findings and Recommendations

Cultural resources were located consisting of the following:

- **42CB2764** The site is the remains of the historic homestead of George Newton Hill. Hill patented the site in 1919 and filed with the county in 1936. The site contains the remains of a house with attached dugout, a rock lined well/cistern, several corrals and fences, an earthen dam and a dump, which may contain intact buried remains. One unusual feature of the site is that the corrals and some of the fences were wired with electrical transmission wire. The first powerline right of way was filed in 1923 and the fencing probably post dates the construction of the original powerline.

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