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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT
SUITE 310
625 SILVER AVENUE, S.W.
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87102

October 24, 1991

015/007 orig memo file
cc L. Blyden
11/19/91 DRN
TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA
Kelley
In Reply Refer To:
P. C. Blyden -
Lithg

RECEIVED

OCT 28 1991

DIVISION OF
OIL GAS & MINING

CERTIFIED MAIL--RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
P 965 799 211

Dr. Dianne R. Nielson, Director
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
Department of Natural Resources
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
355 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84180-1203

Dear Dr. Nielson:

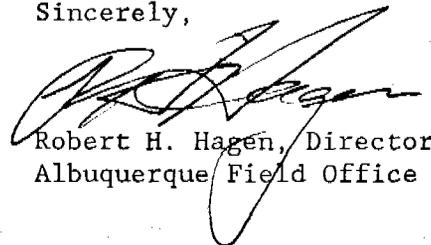
Enclosed is the inspection report for the reinspection that occurred at the Hidden Valley Mine on October 8, 1991. The reinspection was for the purpose of re-evaluating the highwall in accordance with Deputy Director Hord Tipton's informal review decision on April 30, 1991, regarding Ten-Day Letter 91-02-370-002 TV1.

The reinspection and subsequent review found no evidence that a natural cliff or bluff existed that was reduced or removed by the mining process. Both the January 8, 1991 and July 18, 1991, "732 letters" (copies attached) specified that a prerequisite to retention of highwalls was that they replace similar natural features that were disturbed by the mining operation. Both of these letters required an amendment to the State program to revise the exemption based on topographic conditions in the surrounding area that exists at State Rule R614-301-553.650.

The January 9, 1991 letter also stated that highwalls that had previously been approved under the exemption would have to be eliminated.

Please respond within 10 days of receipt of this letter with any additional information that you may have and identify actions that you consider appropriate to assure compliance with reclamation requirements.

Sincerely,


Robert H. Hagen, Director
Albuquerque Field Office

Enclosures