

0018

September 5, 1995

Mr. William Malencik, Reclamation Specialist
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
451 East 400 North
CEU Box 156
Price, UT 84501-2699

Re: Hidden Valley Mine

Dear Bill,

This letter is to clarify my position with regard to the inspection you and I conducted on the Hidden Valley Mine on November 19, 1991, and the inspection conducted with Jess Kelly on October 8, 1991.

The October inspection was conducted with one concern; to determine whether or not the remaining highwall on the "A" seam side of the mine was required to be eliminated under the Utah program. We walked the mine and surrounding areas to view the topography, aspect, etc., solely to help us in this determination. I did not conduct a compliance inspection, what you would consider an oversight inspection of the mine. I identified as a concern the access road cut and fill slopes, however, I did not investigate and issue a Ten-Day Notice as would have been required if I was conducting a complete inspection. The access road to which I refer is the unpaved road from the end of the blacktop to the pad area.

The November inspection was conducted as a complete inspection. We discussed the access road cut and fill slopes and the pad outcrops immediately above Ivie Creek with the consultant. I cannot recall what her exact response was, but in effect the company did not believe it was responsible for revegetating those slopes. To her knowledge those slopes had never been seeded. I believed this to be a violation because the company is responsible for the slopes. You addressed the issue in a manner that satisfied my concerns, so no Federal action was taken.

If you have any questions, please call me at 505-248-5070. This is the new AFO telephone number.

Sincerely,

Mitchell S. Rollings, Reclamation Specialist
Albuquerque Field Office