



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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July 18, 1990

TO: Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Jess Kelley, Reclamation Engineer *JK*

RE: Portion of Upper Access Road Blocked by Slide, Utah Power and Light Company, Des-Bee-Dove Mine, ACT/015/017, Folder #5, Emery County, Utah

Synopsis

During a visit to the Des-Bee-Dove Mine on June 7, 1990, the author of this memorandum noticed that a very large rock slide had almost completely blocked the main access road. The slide occurred on that portion of the access road which lies between the Deseret Portal and the Beehive/Little Dove Portal area.

Analysis

The blocked portion of the Des-Bee-Dove access road is shown in detail on Map 3-7 of the Permit Application Package (PAP). The road is discussed on pages 3-57 and 3-58 of the PAP.

The slide was reported to the Division in a January 4, 1990 letter to Pamela Grubaugh-Littig from David Smaldone of Utah Power and Light Company (UP&L). Val Payne of UP&L also reported the slide to Bill Malencik by telephone on January 4, 1990.

According to the Smaldone letter, the slide occurred about January 2, 1990. It involved an estimated 500 tons of material and completely blocked the access road. There was no damage to public health or safety or to the environment. The letter also commits UP&L to restore the surface drainage, which is designed to involve the upper access road, prior to the spring runoff of 1990.

This writer spoke to Bill Malencik about the slide July 5, 1990. Mr. Malencik assured this writer that the surface drainage had, indeed, been fully restored and that access to the Beehive/Little Dove Portal area is also possible for a standard size vehicle.

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Memo to P. Grubaugh-Littig
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On July 6, 1990, this writer spoke with John Niebergal of the Ferron, Utah Office of the U.S. Forest Service about the possibility that the slide was an impediment to cattlemen who use the road for access to East Mountain. Mr. Niebergal assured this writer that the slide constituted no such impediment. The cattlemen had taken numerous head of cattle to East Mountain via the access road during the spring of 1990 and had had no difficulty negotiating the slide area.

The applicable rule in this case is R614-301-527.230, which states, "A road damaged by a catastrophic event, such as a flood or earthquake, will be repaired as soon as practical after the damage has occurred." The operator contends, and this writer concurs, that a complete cleanup of the slide is not practical unless or until the Des-Bee-Dove Mine either becomes active or goes into final reclamation. As long as the surface drainage remains open and at least limited vehicle access to the upper part of the property is maintained, the situation can comfortably be left as it now stands.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the site of the slide be maintained as it is until the Des-Bee-Dove Mine either becomes active or goes into final reclamation. In the meantime, the operator must keep open the surface drainage and preserve vehicle access to the upper part of the property.

djh
AT60/36-37