



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: Approval of Plan for Incomplete Elimination of Highwall, Utah Power and Light Company, Des-Bee-Dove Mine, ACT/015/017, Folder #3, Emery County, Utah

Synopsis

In June, 1990, the Division performed an Initial Completeness Review of the Des-Bee-Dove Mine Plan for the mine's Five-Year Permit Renewal.

The reclamation plan proposes that several feet of the highwall above the Beehive/Little Dove Portal be left exposed during final reclamation. The reason given for leaving part of the highwall is that the upper part of the highwall consists of outcrops of solid sandstone. Thus, nothing would be gained by piling unconsolidated fill material against an outcrop of solid rock.

Analysis

R614-301-553.600 states that highwalls may be retained if approval is obtained from the Division. This section further states that such approval is contingent upon whether or not a retained highwall satisfies three criteria: (1) the retained highwall is not significantly greater in height or length than existing cliffs in the surrounding area; (2) the retained highwall is similar in structural composition to the pre-existing cliffs in the surrounding area and is compatible with the visual attributes of the area; and (3) the residual highwall is compatible with the geomorphic processes of the area.

The highwall proposed for retention easily satisfies these criteria. Its dimensions are comparable to the dimensions of many ledges in the area. It is composed of the same bedded sandstone which dominates the area and is thus compatible with the "visual attributes" of the area. Finally, it is compatible with the

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"geomorphic processes" of the area, being similar if not identical to the sandstone outcrops which span sections of nearly all of the precipitous watercourses in this arid country.

The writer of this memorandum is satisfied with the plan to retain the upper part of the highwall. Indeed, nothing would be gained by restoring the slope to its original contour. In addition, the residual highwall would be compatible with the character of the surrounding area as required by R614-301-600 and as outlined in the preceding discussion.

Recommendations

It is hereby recommended that the Division approve the plan for incomplete elimination of the highwall above the Beehive/Little Dove Portal area.

djh
AT