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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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Belovs 1017 #2
CORRESP.

July 10, 1990

Scott Fisher
Office of Surface Mining
Brooks Towers
1020 15th Street
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Scott,

Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining (DOGM) is currently working on a five year renewal permit for Utah Power and Light, Des-Bee-Dove Coal Mine. The haul road associated with the mine cuts through the Mancos shale formation. The Mancos shale formation as you know is extremely unstable and difficult to revegetate once it has been disturbed.

DOGM is questioning the reclaimability of this section of the road as proposed in the mining permit. We will be requiring the owner to establish test plots to determine reclamation feasibility. We will be suggesting that the owner hire a geomorphologist as a consultant to design the test plots and post mining topography.

I would appreciate any help that you could provide the Division in reviewing the proposed test plot design and follow up studies. I understand that you have worked with this soil type and could provide valuable suggestions for erosion control and vegetation establishment. We would like to incorporate this test plot as a condition of the five year permit renewal.

If you would have the time to assist us with this problem a site visit is recommended to view the extent of the problem. Please advise me when you could visit the site and I will make arrangements. Late July or early August would help expedite matters.

Thank you for your consideration to this matter.

Sincerely,

Susan M. White
Reclamation Biologist

cc: V. Payne, UP&L
P. Grubaugh-Littig, DOGM