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September 8, 1978

Mr. Don Crane
Office of Surface Mining
Old Post Office Bldg.
1823 Stout Street
Denver, Colorado 80202

Re: Conceptual Plans,
Utah Power and Light
Deseret, Beehive, Dove (Church)
Mines ACT/015/017 and
Deer Creek Mine ACT/015/018-A

Dear Don:

I am enclosing conceptual plans which were submitted by Utah Power and Light Company to upgrade existing facilities at these two mines so that they conform with the initial program regulations.

Ostensibly, the enclosed drawings and narrative set forth what would need to be done by the company to achieve full compliance with the road grade and sedimentation pond performance standards of the initial program. Since these plans are conceptual, you will discover that the road grades as proposed are designed to somewhat in excess of the grade standards of not more than 300 feet of plus 10% grade in 1000 feet of road and some grades designed over 15%. This means that a road designed to meet the grade specifications of the regulations would disturb even more area than depicted on the enclosed drawings.

This erroneous depiction of the road grades was discussed with Utah Power and Light officials and it was mutually agreed that since these plans are conceptual, no further details were needed to make a decision of the point at hand. That point is whether or not the added expense and environmental degradation of reconstruction is justified by attaining compliance.

The Division is of the opinion that the roads should not be reconstructed but that existing facilities should remain with an upgrading of road drainage systems and new road surface being laid (asphalt).

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You might also discover that some of the road cuts and fills are designed with the worst possible site conditions in mind; that is that the cuts are projected to be placed in the least competent rock thus necessitating large volumes to be moved. These worst-case projections show the need for more disturbance than that which would be encountered under optimal conditions.

In summary, this Division seeks your concurrence with its determination that the roads presently in existence on the Deer Creek and Church (Deseret-Beehive-Dove) mines need not be re-routed, only upgraded through more adequate drainage facilities and surfacing. In addition, your concurrence is sought with our decision that the diversions, sedimentation ponds, and general site plans are satisfactory in concept. Once your concurrence and/or suggestions are received, this Division will issue a tentative approval with the stipulation that the final approval will be subject to Division review and modification of detailed engineering and the Permanent Program requirements.

Your response in this matter would be appreciated by September 25, 1978. If you have specific questions on these plans we would be glad to discuss them with your staff or visit the area in a joint field inspection.

Sincerely,



RONALD W. DANIELS
COORDINATOR OF MINED
LAND DEVELOPMENT

RWD/sp
enc: Drawings and Narrative