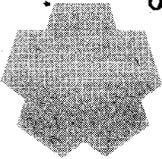


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STATE OF UTAH  
NATURAL RESOURCES & ENERGY  
Oil, Gas & Mining

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ACT/041/002

Scott M. Matheson, Governor  
Temple A. Reynolds, Executive Director  
Cleon B. Feight, Division Director

*copy to Joe & Ken*

M E M O R A N D U M  
\* \* \* \* \*

TO: James Smith  
FROM: Cy Young *CY*  
SUBJECT: Slope Failure at Southern Utah Fuel Company, Convulsion Canyon Mine  
DATE: May 5, 1982

I have reviewed the Dames and Moore report dated March 17, 1982. This report includes a description of the landslide which occurred March 5, 1982, an evaluation of the slope conditions prior to and as a result of the slide, and recommendations for mitigating slope instabilities.

The slide is believed to have been caused by infiltration of snowmelt, which increased the weight of the soil above the failure plane and caused a loss of soil strength at the failure plane. Another contributing factor may have been an undetected leak in buried water pipes. Short term recommendations include slope dewatering and monitoring of any further movements. Long term recommendations include extending the lined section of the main entry to reduce the risk of raveling material falling into the mouth, relocation of water lines, construction of a crib wall to deter further movement and the installation of permanent drainage devices.

On April 30, I talked with Kerry Frame, Chief Engineer at SUFCO. He informed me that the slope has dried and no further movement has been noticed. I suggested an alternative measure to dewater the slope during the wet season. This would encompass drilling horizontally into the slope both above and below the area of failure. Perforated plastic pipe can then be inserted into the drill holes. Diversions would be constructed to channel discharge away from the weakened area.

Other recommendations made by Dames and Moore seem adequate to stabilize the slope as needed and protect the electric substation and the main entry.

Notification of the Division was not immediate, as was pointed out in Ken Wyatt's memo dated April 19. Based on my review of the Dames and Moore report, I do not feel that SUFCO was negligent in this matter. The slide does not seem to have potential adverse effects on the public, property, health, safety or the environment. This, according to UMC 817.99, is necessary for immediate notification of the Division.

cc: Inspection Staff

CY/tr