

April 22, 1987

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APR 28 1987

Utah State Division of Oil, Gas,
and Mining
Salt Lake City, Utah

**DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING**

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to you in reference to our conversation of last week in which we discussed a reclamation project that we, the Boyer Family feel is long overdue, and justified at the Blackhawk Coal Mine in Summit County: T3N, R6E, Section 36, located 12 miles east of Coalville.

Jack Higgins and his help, pushed new roads, dug deep holes to gain access to gravel, etc., and removed a great deal of vegetation which served as a water shed from our hillside, and also feed for livestock. He also left piles of gravel and rock in an unsightly way.

At the present time, a great amount of erosion is taking place. The content of the soil is of rock and clay content. During storms, or early spring run-off, much mud, rock and other debris runs or slides on the slopes.

I am concerned that a major slide could occur where Mr. Higgins has hollowed the ground out under the mountain slope. We feel it should be his responsibility to restore this area.

Our only source of income on that particular piece of land, to have it productive at the present time is to have sheep graze upon it. In the very near future, we are planning to have about 900 head of sheep in this grazing area. The ewes either have lambs or will produce within the next four weeks. Large holes have been left where these sheep graze. If a ewe gets in a hole, she seldom is able to get off her back. The lambs cannot jump high enough to get out of the holes in most instances. Partial areas have been pushed with a caterpillar, resulting in barren ground that needs reseeding. Large, steep walls have been exposed and left, which could be hazardous for livestock and deer.

These conditions which I am referring to have been maintained the last two years, and are of such an unreasonable nature that they deprive us of the beneficial use of our land. Drainage ponds that have been constructed encourage the breeding of mosquitos and is accompanied with an unpleasant odor when hot summer days arrive.

We have been extremely fortunate the last two years to have escaped the threat of flash floods. This area is notorious for flash floods in July. Existing conditions could encourage flooding to nearby fields and fences which we maintain.

We feel the hills should be returned to a natural slope to minimize our liability. Possibly it would be to our advantage to be able to sit down with a geologist and discuss the slopes for our benefit. Where core samples for testing have been made, we feel the need for the ground to be revegetated. We would like all holding ponds above the mine, and to the south, removed and landscaped properly. The road up to the top of the hill that we use to drive on when livestock is in that area, has been cut-up and made impassable. It should be regraded and restored.

We would like all concrete and asphalt that has been installed without our permission to be removed.

There is erosion even taking place at the bridge crossing the Chalk Creek. Makeshift and inadequate procedures have contributed to this condition so the bridge has dropped very low and is very susceptible to action caused by the creek. We have understood that the changing of the natural course of the river is illegal. Jack has tried to do this and it has removed the gravel bed of the river so the water washes under and around the riverbed, making an unstable condition for the bridge to rest upon.

On every occasion of our meetings, we have heard that the Boyer's have been contacted and we have given our approval on all of these matters. We find ourselves a little bitter and resenting these statements because absolutely no contact has ever been made regarding restoration, nor use.

We would like all of these matters tended to. We would like all unsightly items and old equipment or debris removed and cleaned up for safety and for the usefulness of our land to be restored.

Since we are in possession of this land, we find a constant source of interference, directly and indirectly, to our efficiency and farm operations. It is a situation that is difficult to deal with. It is our strong desire to have this land restored to its normal condition and prove itself productive so our expenses and work can be justified.

We are sincerely hoping you will assist us in the enforcement of this reclamation if it is in your power to do so.

Your help and assistance would be greatly appreciated by myself and my family.

Sincerely,

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