State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Michael O. Leavitt
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May 30, 1997

Neil Simmons
BLM Price River/San Rafael Resource Area
P.O. Box 7004
Price, Utah 84501

Re: EA No. UT-066-97-8, Western Clay Company, Lone Tree Wedge Gypsum Mine/Plan of Operations (aka Hebe Gypsum Mine M/015/072), Emery County, Utah

Dear Mr. Simmons:

Enclosed are the Division comments on the Lone Tree Wedge Gypsum Mine EA document. Our files currently refer to this proposed operation as the Hebe Gypsum Mine, file number M/015/072. Our comments are listed separately for convenience.

The Division is currently reviewing the Plan of Operations (Appendix A to the EA document) specifically to determine if it meets the requirements of our Minerals Rules. Our review should be completed in the immediate future and we will provide you with a copy of the letter we send to the operator. If you have any questions regarding these EA comments you can reach me by phone at (801) 538-5267.

Sincerely,

Anthony A. Gallegos
Senior Reclamation Specialist

jb
Enclosure: DOGM's EA Review Comments
M15-72ea.rvw

DOGM Comments on EA UT-066-97-8 Lone Tree Wedge Gypsum Mine/POO M/015/072
(May 30, 1997)

Stipulation 2 of the EA states that all disturbed areas shall be restored to the approximate original contour. This stipulation does not seem realistic for the areas of gypsum removal unless borrowed materials are brought in. Was this stipulation intended to require all disturbed areas to be regraded to blend in with the natural topography?

Stipulation 2 of the EA requires the seed to be used in reclamation to originate from native plant species occurring in southwestern Emery County. Does this stipulation mean that all seed to be used during reclamation of this site must have been collected from plants in the area, or was the intent of this stipulation to limit the seed species to only those native to southwestern Emery County?

Page four of the proposal describes the estimated acreage disturbed and reclaimed annually. The annual acreages treat the areas reclaimed annually as being fully released during the same year of reclamation. Under Division rules, reclaimed areas may not be fully released for up to three years after the areas have been seeded. This may not have an effect on the areas considered disturbed annual according to BLM rules.

The disturbed acreages described on pages four and five of the proposal do not match the acreages shown on drawing titled "Plan of Operations 1997-2008 Hebe Mining Claims" revision date 2-23-97. The acreages on the drawing are grouped according to phases rather than years, however, taking this into consideration does not resolve the differences. Also, the schedule described under this section of the proposal does not agree with the schedule received by Division staff while at the mine site on February 24, 1997.

M15-72ea.rvw

M/015/072

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FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

DATE: May 30, 1997

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET: 3

TO: Neil Simmons
BLM
Price / San Rafael RA

FAX NUMBER: 1-801-636-3657

FROM: Tony Gallegos PHONE (801) 538-5267

Minerals Reclamation and Development Program

PHONE: (801) 538-5291
FAX: (801) 359-3940

SUBJECT: Review of EA - Western Clay Co.
M/015/072

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M/015/072

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