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

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor
Ted Stewart
Executive Director
James W. Carter
Division Director

355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203
801-538-5340
801-359-3940 (Fax)
801-538-5319 (TDD)

May 14, 1996

Mr. Thomas L. Tidwell
District Ranger
Uintah National Forest
Spanish Fork Ranger District
44 West 400 North
Spanish Fork, Utah 84660

Re: Disturbed Area Reduction Request, Gardner Canyon Gypsum Mine, S/023/015, Juab County, Utah

Dear Mr. Tidwell:

Thank you for your May 6, 1996 letter, wherein you request that the Division exclude that portion of the access road leading from the forest boundary to the Gardner Canyon minesite from the overall disturbed area calculations. According to our records, this portion of the access road amounts to approximately 2.16 acres of estimated surface disturbance. This would reduce the overall amount of existing surface disturbance at the minesite to approximately 2.8 acres

Your May 6th letter states that recent litigation has led to a proposed settlement agreement between the USFS and Mr. Robert Steele. I understand, as part of this agreement, a special use road permit will be issued by the Forest Service that will condition the use of the existing access road leading to the site. The Forest Service will also issue a second special use permit that will condition the use of the surface within the mine site area. Upon cessation of mining operations, the Forest Service will require that portion of the access road within the forest boundary to be reclaimed back to its original condition. A $40,000 reclamation bond will be required by the Forest Service to ensure that reclamation of the mine site and the access road is performed.

Because of the circumstances with this road, as described above, the Division will honor the Forest Service's request not to include that portion of the main access road from the forest boundary to the minesite as part of the total mine disturbed acreage. Please contact me or Wayne Hedberg of my staff if you have any further questions or concerns in this regard.

Sincerely,

Lowell P. Braxton
Associate Director, Mining

jb
cc: James Carter, DOGM
Robert Steele
Minerals staff (route)
S023015.rod