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# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Executive Director

Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

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M 0350026

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April 2, 2009

Gary Bond  
South Mountain Homeowners' Association  
13712 Vestry Road  
Draper, Utah 84020

Subject: Response to Comments on Point of the Mountain Quarry, Geneva Rock Products, Point of the Mountain (South Hansen) Quarry, M0350026, Salt Lake County, Utah

Dear Mr. Bond:

On November 3, 2008, the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (Division) received a letter from Joan Little-Brock who was serving as president of the South Mountain Homeowners' Association. I understand you have now replaced her in this position. Ms. Little-Brock's letter requested that Geneva Rock Products voluntarily undertake testing to protect the property holders that might be negatively affected by their Point of the Mountain mining operation. She specifically mentioned blasting and a residential development built on land that may be prone to landslides.

Geneva monitored a blast which was, according to their statement, the largest in recent memory. Monitoring devices were placed at two of the homes closest to the mine on Steep Mountain Drive, and test results found vibrations ranging from 0.15 to 0.23 inches per second. This is about half the vibration as would be obtained by a sliding door. The national standards for vibration limits are 2.0 inches per second for newer structures and 1.0 inches per second for historic structures with poor construction and un-reinforced masonry, so you can see they are well under these limits.

Geneva has committed in their mine plan to maintaining standard blasting records of each blast. If additional complaints are received, they will monitor the next scheduled blast, and if vibrations exceed 0.35 inches per second, the number of holes, blasting patterns, delays used, and the weight of explosives will be reviewed and adjusted as necessary to minimize detrimental effects of blasting.



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You mentioned in a telephone conversation with Paul Baker, Minerals Program Manager, a development built on a landslide, implying the mining operation might destabilize the landslide and jeopardize the development. This appears to be that to which Ms. Little-Brock was referring where she said there was at least one residential development built into the mountain on land that may be prone to landslides.

It is very doubtful the mine's activities would affect landslide movement. A more likely scenario for ground movement is a leaking sprinkler, excessive landscape watering, construction excavation at the toe of a landslide, or high ground water levels after a rapid snowmelt after a wet winter. Slide movement is not likely to be triggered by a blast, but we will discuss the issue with Geneva.

You also expressed concern about potential effects on the Salt Lake County Flight Park. None of the letters we received discussed this issue, but I am including with this letter copies of two maps from the mine plan. Most of the future mining under Phase I will be conducted on the south side of Steep Mountain. Figure 6 shows the ridgeline modified from its current location. We have no information showing whether or how this might affect wind patterns in the area.

Please contact us if you have further questions or concerns. While the Division has issued final approval for the mine plan, modifications can be made if they are warranted, and the operator has been willing to work with us to address problems. You may contact me at (801) 538-5320, Paul Baker, minerals program manager, at (801) 538-5261, or Leslie Heppler, permit lead, at (801) 538-5257.

Sincerely,



Dana Dean, P. E.  
Associate Director of Mining