July 28, 1988

TO: File

FROM: D. Wayne Hedberg, Reclamation Hydrologist DWH

RE: Field Inspection, Interstate Brick Company, Fivemile Pass Mine, M/045/006, Tooele County, Utah

On July 11, 1988, I visited the Fivemile Pass minesite. I met with Kristina Moran of Interstate Brick to discuss some drainage concerns. Ms. Moran is preparing a response to the Division's outstanding permitting concerns for this site and requested our assistance to help her answer certain hydrologic questions.

The area of primary concern is an ephemeral channel which is presently blocked by overburden materials from the mining operation. The natural drainage below this impounding fill has been intercepted and removed by the ongoing surface mining operation. Interstate Brick is attempting to prepare a response addressing how drainage will be handled from this channel during operations and upon final reclamation.

There is little, if any evidence, that the present fill material in the channel has impounded any water during the past three years it has been in place. Normally, the area receives very little precipitation and the coarse, sandy nature of the native soils will likely yield relatively high infiltration rates. There is moderate vegetative cover in the adjacent area also. The upgradient watershed area contributing to this drainage is relatively small and flat lying. These factors make it reasonable to assume that it is unlikely that any significant channel drainage and/or erosion problems will occur during the life of the mining operation.

The need to construct a bypass drainage channel around the pit upon final reclamation was discussed. It seemed unreasonable and unnecessary based upon the proposed final pit configurations to require this of the operator. Significant surface disturbance would be required to properly construct the diversion. There would not be sufficient environmental benefit gained by this requirement to warrant such an expense of the operator given the present site configurations. The minor amount of water that this ephemeral channel normally passes would not be a significant loss to the hydrologic system.

dwh
cc: Kristina Moran, Interstate Brick
L. Braxton
H. Shepherd
MN2/5