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File in Getty's Mercur Project
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Heirs Listen to Judge, Go Home

MERCUR, Tooele County (AP) — Two women, hairs to mining claims located near the ghost town of Mercur, left for home after a judge ordered them to cease blocking Getty Oil Co. mining crews from going to work.

Paula Saragoza and Helen Draper locked the steel gate across the Mercur Canyon road Tuesday, but unlocked it to Getty crews later under orders from 3rd District Judge James Sawaya.

The women are daughters of Paul Troester, a deceased Mercur mining partner. The sisters say the same gate was locked by Getty officials last year to keep them from reaching the 19.3 acres of mining claims they own.

Legal Proceedings

The mammoth corporation is also seeking 91.6 acres of mining property in the area now owned by the heirs of the late Dr. J. Floyd Cannon, Salt Lake City.

Margaret Cannon Rich, Floyd Douglas, Allan Cannon and Mary Cannon Chase are fighting a Feb. 5 condemnation action brought by Getty against their holdings.

Attorney Carl Nemelka said his client, Mrs. Rich, has instructed him to "attack the entire condemnation action." The lawyer also said the Getty mining project would create a toxic pond.

"The land will never be able to be reclaimed," Nemelka said. "We don't know exactly what type of mineral debris they're going to put there. But we're going to oppose their action to create that kind of pond."

Getty documents say that a tailing pond, waste and debris dumps, roads, power lines and pipelines will cross the heirs' property as part of its Mercu mining project.

Statement by Officials

Getty officials claim they haven't been able to reach a purchase agreement with the claim owners.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Saragoza and Mrs. Draper have filed a written answer to a similar condemnation action by Getty against their holdings.

Getty also filed a separate action Tuesday seeking $10,000 each against the women for blockading the road, along with a request for a permanent injunction to prevent such future incidents.