File

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

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April 29, 1996

Dan Lindsey, Chairman
Air Village Hills Subdivision Board
3289 West 1800 South
Vernal, Utah 84078

Dear Mr. Lindsey:

I am in receipt of your April 16, 1996 letter, stating concerns regarding implementation of the reclamation plan for the tar sands mine operated by Uintah County at Asphalt Ridge (M/047/002). I appreciate your concern that the mine is becoming increasingly visible.

My staff advises me that the mining disturbances at this site have been made by two (2) juxtaposed operations, the above referenced M/047/002 and a small mining operation (SMO) under the control of a Mr. Tom Bachtell. I am further advised that Mr. Bachtell wishes to upgrade his SMO to a large mining operation, and that in the process of doing so wishes to meet with members of your Board to discuss this proposal. I encourage you to meet with Mr. Bachtell in this regard.

Mr. Bachtell has scheduled a meeting with this office on April 30, 1996, to discuss his tentative plans to expand the SMO. After this meeting I will ask members of my staff to inspect both of the operations for compliance with the requirements of the Utah Minerals Regulatory Program. At the conclusion of this visit, I recommend a meeting with you and members of your Board to review your concerns and discuss these operations. We will be calling you to establish times and dates for our visit. Should you need to discuss details attendant to these mines prior to our site visit, please contact Wayne Hedberg or Anthony Gallegos at (801) 538-5340.

Very truly yours,

James W. Carter
Director

vb
cc: L. Braxton
W. Hedberg
LINDSAYT.