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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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April 21, 1992

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Tony Gallegos, Reclamation Engineer aaf

RE: Meeting Documentation, Larson Limestone Company (DOGM File S/049/011), Utah County Commission, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

Date of Meeting: April 20, 1992
Time of Meeting: 2:30 PM MDT
Location: Utah County Commission Offices, Provo, Utah
Participants: Gerald Larson, Farrel Larson, Larson Limestone Company; Tony Gallegos, Wayne Hedberg, DOGM; Kent Sundberg, et. al., Utah County Commission

The purpose of this meeting was to clarify the jurisdiction of Utah County Ordinances and the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining's regulations with respect to the Larson Limestone operation. The meeting was not specifically structured and would be described best as an open discussion.

Utah County is requesting that Larson Limestone Company (Larson) post a reclamation bond for the disturbance associated with the mine. The County is also requesting that Larson adhere to certain reclamation practices such as reducing the highwalls to a much lesser angle. Larson is reluctant to post a bond because of the double regulation of the operation by the county and the state, and because of the differences in reclamation requirements/standards between the two entities.

At the meeting, the Larsons voiced their main concern as being subject to two different sets of reclamation standards. They felt that the County's standards were designed for sand and gravel operations and not applicable to hard rock mining, whereas the Division's rules deal more specifically with hardrock/quarry mining. The Larsons felt DOGM's technical staff had more mine permitting experience and the Division's rules were more applicable with respect to regulating their operation.

The County Commission presented their concerns and their ordinances with respect to reclamation and licensing of the Larson's operation. The County was unaware of the Division's role in regulation of the mining operations within the state.

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The rules and reclamation standards of the Division were presented and discussed. It was pointed out that the Division's rules would not supersede the County's ordinance, and that the Division could not require a reclamation bond for mining operations disturbing less than five acres of surface area. The Division's rules do not specifically require the pit highwalls to be reclaimed to a slope less than the critical angle of repose. Unless a variance is granted, Division rules call for all highwalls to be reclaimed or stabilized to achieve a slope angle of 45 degrees at final reclamation. It was pointed out that the Division granted Larson a variance for leaving the highwalls at a steeper angle under their current Small Mining NOI. The Division's rules do not apply to sand, gravel or rock aggregate operations.

The Division and Utah County currently do not have an agreement whereby each party would recognize a reclamation surety held by the other party. It was mentioned that a recent Division site inspection indicated the Larson's mining disturbance may be over five acres.

The meeting concluded with the understanding that the following would be completed within the next 30 days:

1) Larson will provide the Division with a map(s) of the mine site in order to determine the amount of mining disturbance.

2) The Division will perform a site inspection (County may also attend the inspection) to determine if the operator has disturbed (and/or is continuing to use) more than five acres. Division findings will be reported to the County.

3) After receiving the Division's findings on applicable site disturbance, the County will decide if they will require a separate reclamation surety for the limestone operation.

4) The County will review the Division Rules in comparison with their ordinances and determine which mining and reclamation standards would be most applicable to the Larsons operation.

jb
cc: Larson Limestone
Kent Sundberg, Utah County Commission
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