

40-3453

TOWN OF CASTLE VALLEY

October 3, 1994

Scott Hershey, Director
Utah State Trust Lands Administration
355 West, North Temple
Triad Three, Suite 400
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180

RE: Possible Excavation at Round Mountain (Castle Valley)
for Capping Atlas Minerals Tailings Pile in Moab

At the September 21, 1994 meeting of the Castle Valley Town Council, Mayor Valli Smouse reported a conversation between Arches National Park Superintendent Noel Poe and Mr. Bill Hedden, the Grand County Council Representative from our district and resident of Castle Valley.

The subject of their conversation is of concern to us as Castle Valley residents and elected members of the Town Council. Specifically it has to do with Atlas Minerals considering taking rock from Round Mountain to cap their tailings pile in Moab. Ostensibly this will involve excavations and considerable haulage.

Round Mountain is situated on Utah State Lands which fall within the incorporated limits of the Town of Castle Valley.

We wish to indicate to you these concerns:

1. As a Town Council we are aggrieved that neither Atlas Minerals nor Utah State Lands have entered conversation with us concerning this proposal. A formal solicitation of our involvement at the earliest phase of consideration would have been polite and responsible. Instead, we are apprised of these matters indirectly, thanks to Mr. Poe and Mr. Hedden. It appears Atlas Minerals and Utah State Lands are not entering a 'good faith' relationship with the public who would be directly and severely impacted should this proposal become reality.

2. We intend to monitor, carefully and exhaustively, the Environmental Impact Analysis/Study accompanying any proposed use of Round Mountain by Atlas Minerals. It is our contention that the impacts of excavation and haulage of materials would yield a considerable and negative impact on our Town:

(A) Round Mountain is part of our neighborhood, our community; it is as much a part of our scenic viewscape as Castleton Tower and the other one-of-a-kind formations that are a cherished part of our lives.

(B) Blasting, excavation, and truck haulage of materials would inevitably present several quality of life and pollutions concerns to us. It would disturb the peace and quiet that makes Castle Valley a serene place to build homes and raise families. Further, these activities would contribute to noise and air pollutions---heavy machinery exhaust and dust.

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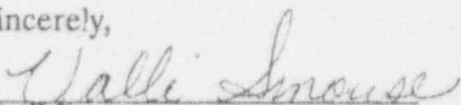
The inevitable truck traffic on Loop Road, and on Highway 128 (River Road), would constitute a reckless endangerment to pedestrians, hikers, bicyclists, and other motor-vehicular traffic. Neither Loop Road nor Highway 128 were designed or constructed to support those haulages.

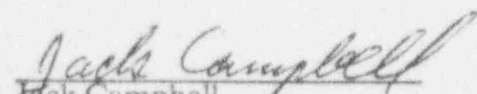
(D) Round Mountain falls within the precious and fragile watershed that supplies our homes with water and nourishes our Valley. Any potential disturbance of the aquifer is, without question, a hazard to our livelihoods. The Town Council, working with an attorney, is perfecting drafts of a Watershed Protection Ordinance that will provide us with legal leverage to insure that Castle Valley Water Rights are respected and protected.

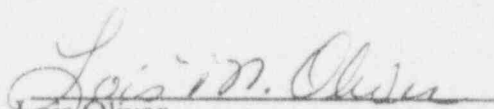
If the language of this letter is strong, it is because our sentiments in the matter are strong. We will do anything and everything in our legal power as a Town to secure our rights, insure the safety of our citizens, and protect the surrounding environment.

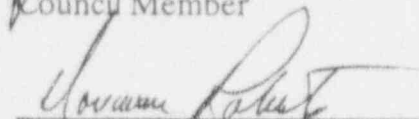
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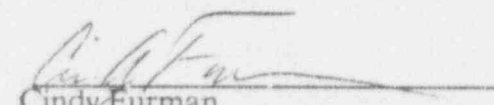
Sincerely,


Valli Smouse,
Mayor of Castle Valley Town


Jack Campbell,
Council Member


Lois Oliver,
Council Member


Donovan Roberts,
Council Member


Cindy Furman,
Council Member

cc: Bill Hedden, Grand County Council Member
Noel Poe, Superintendent Arches National Park
Mike Jensen, Attorney - Town of Castle Valley
Jan Parmenter, Utah State Trust Lands Administration, Southeast Region
Jerry Kinghorn, Attorney - Consultant for Castle Valley Town Watershed Ordinance
Richard Blubaugh, Atlas Corporation Vice President Environmental
and Governmental Affairs
Joseph Holonich, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission - Washington DC
Ann Benge, Chairperson - Castle Valley Property Owners Assoc. Board of Directors
Cris Coffee, Editor/Publisher - Castle Valley Times Newspaper
Scott Groene, Attorney - Southeastern Utah Wilderness Alliance


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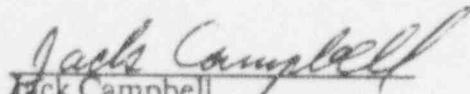
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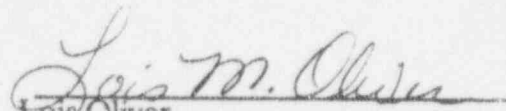
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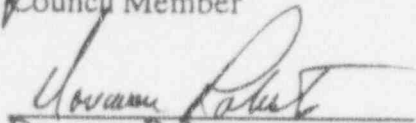
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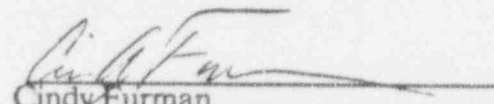
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