

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Region Three
Santa Fe, New Mexico

732-06

November 23, 1948.

Mr. T. B. Jensen, Director of Operations,
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission,
P. O. Box 1539,
Los Alamos, New Mexico.

Dear Mr. Jensen:

During the construction by the Atomic Energy Commission of the road up Sandia Canyon to the new technical area a large borrow pit several acres in extent was scraped out along the roadside in the Bandelier National Monument detached section. This barren area is conspicuous from State Highway 4, the approach road for National Park Service visitors to Bandelier Monument, and seriously impairs park qualities which we are obligated to maintain.

When plans for the Sandia Canyon road were reviewed by technical personnel from this office before construction began, the request of Mr. DiLuzio for a borrow pit in the monument at about Station 55 was definitely turned down and the stipulation made that no borrow be made in the area except in removing fill sections on the old road and in flattening out slopes back to open the low through cut from Station 60 to 70. This Mr. DiLuzio agreed to. However, the sloping of the cut bank section between these stations got seriously out of hand during construction resulting in the large, bare borrow area mentioned above from which some 8,000 cubic yards of material were taken.

In light of the agreements concerning borrow pits made before construction of this road we feel the AEC is obligated to restore this area as far as possible by replanting a portion of it and adding some fill material to preserve trees left on a narrow ridge at the lower end of it.

To this end we have prepared a planting plan titled "Borrow Pit Obliteration" two prints of which are attached for your guidance in replanting the area. Since the best season for the moving of small trees is now at hand we hope you can arrange to have this work done before the ground freezes.

Very truly yours,

/s/ P. P. PATRAW

P. P. Patraw,
Acting Regional Director.

Enclosure 255.

cc: Superintendent, Bandelier, with print. ✓