



December 18, 2023

Public Works-Engineering Services
300 Sixth Street
Rapid City, SD 57701

Subject: Explanation and justification for boulders in ROW exception request 1 of 3

Public Works/Engineering:

This request for an exception has been made to address the berm and boulders that are currently in the right-of-way (ROW) at this residence. It appears that the existing berm is actually a cut-bank through the existing original hilltop from when Skyline Drive was first constructed and the property in question was first rough graded, see **Exhibit A-1 through A-4**. **Exhibit A-1** shows when the land was first graded. It appears that there is a strip of land that was left between the property and the road, which is the existing cut-bank.

The extent of the original grading is delineated by a white line. The blue line shows the property boundary that was surveyed by Jeff Howe. The green line shows the 20-foot utility easement that is on the property. This area was left undisturbed due to the existing power line that runs East to West. **Exhibit A-2** shows a better image of the property after the home was constructed and of the power line. The white line delineates the grading extents of the original grading showing that the power line is North of the grading limits, which appears to be the existing lay of the land.

Exhibits A-3 and A-4 show the street view of the current lay of the land. One can see that the berm in question appears to be the existing cut-bank that extends well beyond the William's property line to the North which is the utility easement. Furthermore, the current homeowners were not involved in the initial building or landscape of the site and the existing boulders were there when they bought the house. It appears that the boulders were used to hold grade. Therefore, the Williams are requesting an exception to maintain the original intent of the boulders in the ROW.

The current plans propose filling in that gap of the old approach location and using boulders to hold grade on the inside of the ROW. Filling in this gap will also help convey the runoff coming down Skyline Drive and prevent it from entering the property directly in front of the house. The boulders will not be visible from Skyline Drive and will not create a hazard for motorists impacting them, with the exception of where they would wrap around the new approach location that cuts through the cut-bank. The site triangles will be maintained through the cut-bank. The cut-bank will be landscaped with low-growing shrubbery creating a natural screen. It will also continue to provide the home owners with a protection barrier and buffering from the traffic on this popular sightseeing road and unwanted trespassers, which continues to be a very serious problem in this area. **Exhibit A-5** shows some other existing examples of boulders and plant buffers in the ROW on Skyline Drive.

Regards,

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