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Entertainment

Spiral Jetty threatened by oil project

SALT LAKE CITY, April 20 (UPI) -- Utah's Spiral Jetty land sculpture is at risk of being altered by a growing search for oil in the region, a foundation official says.

Dia Art Foundation Deputy Director Laura Raicovich, whose group owns the large spiraling sculpture, said artist Robert Smithson's creation could be irrevocably altered if plans are approved to search for oil beneath the Great Salt Lake, the Los Angeles Times reported Sunday.

"The relationship between the work of art and the surrounding landscape is critical," Raicovich said of the famed artwork.

"This is an internationally recognized work of art, which not just the people of Utah but everyone should want to maintain."

Keith C. Hill, president of Pearl Exploration and Production, the company behind the potential oil exploration threatening the Spiral Jetty, said he has been besieged by comments about the plan.

"Not one," he said, "has been supportive."

The Times said the plan is being reviewed by state officials, who said they will not approve the effort until they learn how Pearl would transport any oil it finds at the site.