October 27, 2009

Subject: Public Outreach for the Evaluation of the Utah Coal Regulatory Program (Division of Oil, Gas and Mining & Federal Office of Surface Mining), Outgoing File

Dear «SALUTATION»:

Each year the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM) and the United States Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining (OSM) jointly evaluate DOGM’s program for regulation of coal mining in Utah. We determine how effectively DOGM is (1) ensuring that land reclamation on coal mines is contemporaneous and successful, (2) preventing offsite impacts to lands and waters adjacent to the coal mine permit area, and (3) providing service to its customers. Our evaluation process includes the selection of specific coal mining and land reclamation topics to evaluate these criteria.

We are requesting your suggestions for coal mining and land reclamation topics that we should evaluate, for improvements to our future oversight evaluation process, and any comments you have on the annual report prepared to document our oversight activities and Utah coal mining and reclamation. Our current oversight evaluation period runs from July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010.

At the end of each evaluation period, OSM writes a report that addresses DOGM’s effectiveness in implementing its coal regulatory program. The evaluation reports for previous years are accessible through the OSM Internet home page at http://www.osmre.gov and the DOGM website at http://www.ogm.utah.gov/. The OSM Internet home page is being updated to include the annual evaluation reports for evaluation years 2005 through 2009. If you have a need for a copy of these annual reports, please contact us as indicated below.
If you have any suggestions or questions on the annual evaluation process, please contact Daron Haddock, DOGM, by telephone at (801) 538-5325, by e-mail at daronhaddock@utah.gov, or by regular mail at the address shown below; or Howard Strand, OSM, by telephone at (303) 293-5026, by e-mail at hstrand@osmre.gov, or by regular mail at the address shown below by December 1, 2009.

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