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General Correspondence Incoming  
CC: John Rodgers  
Howard Strand

U. S. Department of Labor

Mine Safety and Health Administration  
P O Box 25367  
Denver, Colorado 80225  
Coal Mine Safety and Health  
District 9

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MAR 10 2011

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MAR 14 2011  
DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

Mr. Daron Haddock  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
1594 West North Temple  
Suite 1210  
P.O. Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5801

Re: Evaluation of the Utah Coal Regulatory Program (Division of Oil, Gas and mining and Federal Office of Surface Mining)

Dear Mr. Haddock:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on your agency and its effectiveness with the coal mining community. We have enjoyed a mutually beneficial relationship and desire to continue the cooperation that is now in place.

If I could, there is one topic that has become a sensitive issue in the district and within the State of Utah. That topic is oil and gas drilling permits. Many of these drillings are placed in the vicinity of underground mines and, as a result, may impact the health and safety of the miners. Notification by your agency of any permits on mine properties to the MSHA District Office will be necessary to ensure the health and safety of the miners are being addressed by the operating companies.

A second area of concern among MSHA personnel is the need to coordinate transferring orphan impoundments from mine properties to either OSM or the primacy state. Although this has not been an issue for you or us, it has become a point of contention in other areas of the country.

Once again, we appreciate the opportunity to voice comments on topics where our agencies overlap.

Sincerely,

Allyn C. Davis  
District Manager