Mr. John Baza  
Director  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining  
1594 West North Temple  
P.O. Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114  

Dear Mr. Baza:

Secretary Salazar signed a Secretarial Order on October 26, 2011, to consolidate certain functions of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) within the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Recognizing that additional time was needed to fully coordinate with stakeholders, Secretary Salazar later extended the time for input from interested parties in a second Secretarial Order. The proposed consolidation advances our ongoing efforts to improve government operations, to build upon our strengths, and to make the most of our limited resources.

The BLM and OSM have many common responsibilities and expertise, both in conducting administrative functions such as budget and human resources, and in overseeing mining and the reclamation of mine lands. We believe that pooling the talents and skills of our staffs in appropriate areas can allow us to create a more efficient and effective organization. The proposal under consideration is to keep the core functions of both bureaus intact and separate. OSM would continue, of course, to honor the requirements of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, and the BLM would continue to administer its land management responsibilities under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and other applicable statutes.

The next step in exploring appropriate ways to evaluate this proposed consolidation is to solicit input from our stakeholders. To facilitate this process, we have developed a web-based portal for stakeholders to provide input online. Ideas may be submitted through http://on.do.gov/osmblm.

We are seeking your input on the four broad goals of the proposed consolidation relating to the following:

• OSM’s administrative functions with BLM’s administrative functions;
• OSM’s abandoned mine lands programs and functions, including grants under Title IV of SMCRA and the Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System, with BLM’s abandoned mine and reclamation programs;
OSM’s ministerial coal fee collection and distribution functions with the Department of the Interior’s Office of Natural Resources Revenue’s functions and programs (substantive decision-making authority in these areas will remain with OSM);

OSM’s coal mining regulation, inspection, and enforcement programs and functions with BLM’s inspection and enforcement program functions related to mining.

Our bureaus are also scheduling meetings with tribes, state regulatory officials, industry, interested parties, the environmental advocacy community, and representatives of communities affected by coal mining in the following cities:

- Charleston, West Virginia
- Denver, Colorado
- St. Louis, Missouri
- Washington, Pennsylvania
- Washington, DC
- Window Rock, Arizona
- Flagstaff, Arizona, and
- Billings, Montana.

Dates and times for these meetings will be posted on the website shortly. Our bureaus also plan to hold audio conference calls with specific stakeholder groups and will schedule additional meetings as necessary to accommodate stakeholder interest.

Your input is integral to the success of this effort. We look forward to your participation in this process.

Sincerely,

Joseph G. Pizarchik, Director
Office of Surface Mining

Robert V. Abbey, Director
Bureau of Land Management