February 23, 2012

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

Dear Coal Mine Operator:

Each year the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM) and the United States Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM), jointly evaluate DOGM’s program for regulation of coal mining in Utah. We determine how effectively the DOGM is (1) ensuring that land reclamation on coal mines is contemporaneous and successful, (2) preventing offsite impacts to lands and waters adjacent to coal mine permit areas, 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 comments on OSM’s oversight process, your recommendations for evaluation topics, and suggestions for improving our future Annual Reports. Recommendations for evaluation topics should be geared towards determining how effective DOGM’s program is in ensuring successful contemporaneous reclamation, preventing offsite impacts, and providing customer service. Our next oversight evaluation period is from July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013.

At the end of each evaluation period, OSM writes a report that addresses DOGM’s effectiveness in implementing its coal regulatory program. The Annual Evaluation Summary reports are accessible through the OSM website at http://www.wrcc.osmre.gov/programs/oversight/utah/evaluation.shtml. These reports may also be found on the DOGM website at http://www.ogm.utah.gov/.

If you have any suggestions or questions on the annual evaluation process, please contact us by March 30, 2012. You may e-mail your suggestions to Daron Haddock, DOGM, at daronhaddock@utah.gov, telephone (801) 538-5325, Howard Strand, OSM, at hstrand@osmre.gov, telephone (303) 293-5026, or mail us a letter at the addresses shown below.

If you prefer to receive this annual outreach letter by email in the future, please provide us with your email address.
Sincerely,

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

DOGM/OSM Evaluation Team Members:

Dana Dean/DOGM  Christine Belka/OSM
Daron Haddock     Elizabeth Shaefier
Steve Christensen Howard Strand
Steve Demczak     
Steve Schneider    

Howard Strand
Office of Surface Mining
Denver Field Division
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, Colorado 80202-3050