March 10, 2014

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

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

SUBJECT: Public Outreach for the Evaluation of Utah’s Coal Regulatory and AML Programs (Division of Oil, Gas and Mining & Federal Office of Surface Mining)

Dear Mr. Strand and Mr. Haddock,

As the Administration of the Department of Natural Resources, I am happy to give a report on the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining’s (DOGM) Coal and Abandoned Mine Reclamation (AMR) Programs.

Throughout the year, both the Coal and AMR programs have been diligent in monitoring the land reclamation, working with the operators to prevent impacts to lands and waters adjacent to the mines. They have held various public meetings and attended county meetings in addition to working

DOGM has functioned very well in conjunction with other agencies within the Department of Natural Resources. Both programs work with the Division of Wildlife Resources regarding the protection of significant habitat, and threatened and endangered species. They also work with the Division of Water Rights to keep them aware of permitting decisions and include them in pre-site inspections. This Administration is very pleased with the cooperation among our seven agencies.

At this time, I do not have any suggestions for other evaluation topics. I also feel DOGM is conducting these programs properly and they have worked diligently toward the avoidance of offsite impacts from mining, as well as appropriate reclamation of mine site projects.

If you have any further questions or I can provide more information, please feel free to contact me at 801 538-7200. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Michael Styler
Executive Director