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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

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February 24, 2015

Claron Bjork, Environmental Health Director
Southeastern Utah Health Department
P.O. Box 800
Price, Utah 84501

See attached mailing list.

Subject: Public Outreach for the Evaluation of Utah's Coal Regulatory and AMR Programs (Division of Oil, Gas and Mining & Federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement)

Dear Dr. Bjork:

Each year the United States Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), and the Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOG M), jointly evaluate DOGM's programs for regulating coal mining and reclaiming abandoned mine lands in Utah. We determine how effectively the DOGM coal regulatory program 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. We also determine how effectively the DOGM Abandoned Mine Reclamation (AMR) program is using funds provided under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) to accomplish the objectives of Title IV, Section 405 of SMCRA. Our evaluation process includes the selection of specific coal mining and land reclamation topics to evaluate these criteria.

At the end of each evaluation period, OSMRE writes reports addressing DOGM's effectiveness in implementing its coal regulatory and AMR programs. The Annual Evaluation Summary reports are accessible through the OSMRE website at: <http://odocs.osmre.gov/>. These reports may also be found on the DOGM website at <http://www.ogm.utah.gov/>. Our next oversight evaluation period is from July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016.

We are requesting your comments on OSMRE's oversight process for both the coal regulatory and AMR programs, recommendations for evaluation topics, and suggestions for improving our future Annual Reports. We are also providing you the opportunity to discuss ideas and concerns pertinent to our programs with OSMRE's Denver Regional Office.



If you have any suggestions or questions on the annual evaluation process, or if you would like to request discussions with OSMRE's Denver Regional Office, please contact us by March 30, 2015. You may e-mail us at daronhaddock@utah.gov, telephone (801) 538-5325, and 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 Department of Natural Resources
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
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Howard Strand
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Denver Field Division
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