February 26, 2016

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

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 (DOGM), 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, 2016, through June 30, 2017.

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, 2016. 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     Howard Strand
Utah Department of Natural Resources     Office of Surface Mining Reclamation
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining     and Enforcement
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210     Denver Field Division
P.O. Box 145801     1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
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Regulatory Oversight Team:
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 Laura Romin, Petroleum Engineering Technician

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 Price River Water Users
 Public Lands Policy Coordination Office
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 Utah Department of Heritage and Arts
 U.S. Forest Service
 Natural Resource Conservation
 Southeastern Utah Association of Governments
 State Historic Preservation Office
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 Scofield Sewer District
 Kane County Planning Commission
 Office of Surface Mining
 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 Bureau of Land Management

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Kanab, Utah 84741
Denver, Colorado 80202-3050
West Valley City, Utah 84119
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<td>Bobbi Bryant</td>
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