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State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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August 3, 1994

Lillie E. Woolsey
Clear Creek
Scofield Route Box 576
Helper, Utah 84526

Re: Letter of Inquiry Regarding White Oak Mining Activity in the Clear Creek
Townsite Environs

Dear Mrs. Woolsey:

As a life long resident of Clear Creek, I am sure you well understand the ebb and flow of the fortunes of coal mining in the community. Your letter voiced a concern that White Oak is or may be proposing to conduct underground coal mining activities beneath the Clear Creek community.

Accordingly, I have asked my staff to review the approved Mining and Reclamation Plan to see if mining beneath the community is a part of the approved plan. I have been informed that mining beneath the Clear Creek community is not part of the presently approved plan.

I am advised that White Oak may propose to change the permit to access coal from the area of the old Utah #2 portal, near the present train loadout. The Division of Oil, Gas and Mining has not received a written request to change the permit, but the understanding of my staff, based on discussions with White Oak, is that when submitted, the change will not propose to mine beneath the Clear Creek community.

Should a request to mine beneath the Clear Creek community be made, my staff would evaluate the proposal to ensure that subsidence resulting from such a proposal would not damage certain structures on the surface. If a positive determination could not be made, mining beneath the community might not be allowed, although such a determination would have to be made based on specifics in the proposed permit change.

A Lease Agreement was attached to your letter, and you stated in your concluding paragraph that the "lease seems contradictory to an assured peaceful life style or good neighbor policy." I am reluctant to comment on the lease since it is

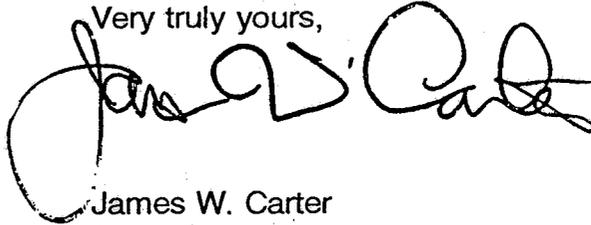


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beyond the purview of the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James W. Carter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "C".

James W. Carter
Director

vb
cc: L. Braxton
D. Haddock
007001WOOLSEY