



IN REPLY REFER TO:

# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING  
Reclamation and Enforcement  
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320  
Denver, Colorado 80202-5733

March 7, 2000

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*Incoming*  
ACT/007/001  
UT-0013

Ms. Pamela Grubaugh-Littig  
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210  
P.O. Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5801

**RECEIVED**

MAR 13 2000

DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS AND MINING

Dear Ms. Grubaugh-Littig:

This relates to Lodestar Energy Inc.'s application dated December 9, 1999, for Permit Change-Incidental Boundary Change (IBC), White Oak Mine, Emery County, UT, and to your request of January 4, 2000, for comments/concurrence dealing with this action. As you know, on May 24, 1984, the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management approved a mining plan for lease # UTU-017354.

We have reviewed the application and noted that on December 11, 1997, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved a modification of Federal coal lease UTU-017354 (tract 2). The applicant had proposed to extend the lease boundary to add 159.61 acres to the current lease. On February 28, 2000 the BLM approved Lodestar Energy, Inc. resource recovery and protection plan for the lease modification.

This proposal would enable the applicant to mine additional 2,000,774 tons of coal from approximately 160 acres of the lease modification area that would otherwise be bypassed. No disturbance to the surface is planned.

The applicant has stated in the application that the current subsurface area disturbed by mining at the White Oak Mine is approximately 3,746 acres. The additional area of approximately 160 acres to permit area is less than 4%.

We have evaluated the proposal contained in the application pursuant to the requirements of 30 CFR 746.18. We have determined that a proposed permit amendment by Lodestar Energy Inc., subject to formal approval by DOGM would not constitute a mining plan modification because the proposed change in the location or amount of coal to be mined is a result of an incidental boundary change as authorized in 30 CFR 746.18(d)(3)(ii).

If you have any question regarding this determination, please contact Joe Wilcox at (303) 844-1400 ext.1465 or me at (303)844-1400 ext. 1489.

Sincerely

*Ranvir Singh*  
Ranvir Singh, P.E.  
Branch Chief, NW