



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Manti-La Sal
National Forest

Supervisor's Office
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File Code: 2820-4

Date: March 16, 2000

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

RECEIVED

MAR 20 2000

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS AND MINING

RE: 160 Acre Incidental Boundary Change, Lodestar Energy Co. White Oak Mine,
ACT/00/007/001-IBC99F

Dear Mary Ann:

The Forest Service hereby consents/concurs to approval of the IBC by the Division subject to the following Mining and Reclamation Plan revisions to be completed at the earliest possible date:

1. Page 0-6 of 14. In the event that water is lost in either Coal or Cox Canyons, Lodestar must commit to water replacement by a method acceptable to the Forest Service (surface management agency).
2. Page 300-3. Since both Coal and Cox Canyon Creeks are perennial, Lodestar must provide specific information on Coal and Cox Canyons regarding fish and other aquatic species.
3. Page 500-10, Paragraph 6. The statement regarding restoration of surface lands must be changed from "technologically and economically feasible" to "technologically feasible". Add a sentence that restoration plans are subject to approval of the regulatory agency and surface management agency.
4. Page 500-20, Paragraph 4, Second Bullet. Revise the first sentence to indicate that monitoring would be required to continue for a longer time if subsidence cannot be demonstrated to be substantially complete.
5. Page 700-10. The monitoring plan must include mapping of the flowing and non-flowing portions of Coal and Cox Canyons each fall around October 1 to determine if there have been any impacts to perennial stream reaches. This information needs to be compared to precipitation data. Our data shows that Cox Canyon Creek is perennial but Coal Canyon Creek may not be. Additional monitoring will be necessary to properly characterize flow.
6. Riparian vegetation must be mapped on Plate 3-1 and described in the wildlife habitat and vegetation sections. The riparian vegetation communities should be characterized by the dominant overstory and understory species. Since Cox Canyon Creek is

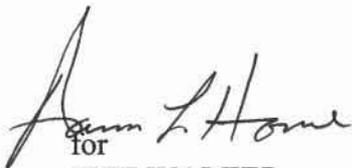


characterized as perennial, it can be reasonably expected that they contain riparian vegetation and habitat. Additional mapping of Coal Canyon needs to be done to determine if it contains riparian vegetation.

7. Overburden Map 5-3A is incomplete in the IBC area and must be completed to determine if there are areas with less than 200 feet of cover that must not be mined.
8. The four subsidence monitoring points are located along the northern boundary of the IBC and do not adequately present information on the four panels. Add a subsidence monitoring point in the bottom of the two upper tributaries of Coal Canyon near the southern portion of the IBC. This would provide information on the most sensitive areas in the IBC with shallow overburden.

If you have any questions, contact Carter Reed or Jeff DeFreest at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Price, Utah.

Sincerely,



for

JEFF WALTER

Acting Forest Supervisor

cc:

D-2/3 (Jeff DeFreest)

Dick Manus, BLM Price Field Office