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United States Department of the Interior

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U-058184, et al

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Office of the Area Mining Supervisor
Conservation Division
8426 Federal Building
125 South State Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138

*File Braztah
Carbon Co.*

June 30, 1976

Mr. James W. Carter
Engineering Geologist
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
1588 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Dear Mr. Carter:

In your letter dated June 15, 1976, you raised questions concerning the applicability of the Braztah Corporation's lease bond to fee lands and the adequacy of this \$25,000 Statewide bond.

The bond is a coal lease bond and applies to activities on the leasehold regardless of surface ownership. It does not cover mining and surface occupancy or disturbance on any lands not under Federal coal lease. Most of Braztah's surface installations are proposed for fee lands containing no coal, or for lands where the surface and the coal are both held in fee title.

It is the policy of this office to require a bond sufficient to protect the Government's interest at the current rate of operations. At present, only part of the No. 3 mine is operating on Federal lands. In addition, a moderate-sized surface development drilling program is proposed for the properties which involves some Federal coal leases. When the liability to the Government increases as operations expand on leased lands, we will recommend and the BLM will secure additional bonding.

We normally defer to the BLM or the Forest Service in determining species to be planted in the reclamation of Federal leases. We will refer your planting recommendations to the BLM since they are involved in the Braztah lease area.

Sincerely yours,

Jackson W. Moffitt

Jackson W. Moffitt
Area Mining Supervisor

CIRCULATE TO:

- DIRECTOR
- PETROLEUM ENGINEER
- MINE COORDINATOR
- ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
- ALL

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