

OCT 05 1983

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OIL, GAS & MINING

October 3, 1983

Memorandum

To: Utah Senior Project Manager, OSM, Denver
Attn: Mr. Dave Maxwell

Through: Chief, Branch of Solid Minerals

From: Deputy State Director, Mineral Resources

Subject: Price River Coal Company, Price River
Complex, Carbon County, Utah, Mining
and Reclamation Plan (MRP)

As stated in our letter dated July 29, 1983, the subject plan, now on file in this office, is adequate for our administration and is in compliance with the 30 CFR 211.10(b) rules, effective August 30, 1982. The plan is designed to achieve maximum economic recovery of the resource within the limits of the equipment and technology presently being used. We recommend approval of the underground mining plan part of the MRP plan permit application package (PAP).

Recently, Debby Richardson, consultant to OSM, Denver, contacted us and said she was concerned about the first mining of five seams of coal under the Price River corridor. If she had to approve the plan at this time she would only approve the issuance of a mining permit for the bottom seam (Sub-3).

In our review of the mine plan, we have determined that a corridor or safety zone has been designed to protect and minimize surface impacts along the Price River within which only limited mining will be approved. Parts of five minable seams will be first mined with pillars oriented to be superimposed in the vertical direction. Mining in the corridor will conform with typical entry and room and pillar systems that have been approved by the Mine Health and Safety Administration (MSHA) for the Price River Coal Company MRP plan. In all of these mining methods, more than 50 percent of the coal by area will be left as supporting pillars following first mining.

The BLM, Division of Mineral Resources are recommending, as stated in the first paragraph of this letter, that the Price River Coal Company be allowed to begin mining under the Price River safety corridor as shown on the maps included in the subject MRP plan. The operations will be field inspected by BLM, Division of Mineral Resources' mining personnel at least once on a quarterly basis. The inspections will involve discussions relative to the geologic and mining conditions being encountered and to the basic principals

of multiple seam mining, with particular emphasis in the Price River safety corridor. Should modifications be required, the BIM will be actively involved in all modifications or necessary changes that follow. All modifications or changes to the underground mining plan must be submitted to the BIM for approval. Approvals of any modifications will be based on sound basic engineering concepts and experienced expertise which will assure the integrity of the corridor. In our opinion, mining as described above will not have an impact on the surface or surface values in the Price River safety corridor.

(Orig. Sgd.) Douglas H. Hillman

cc:
DOGM ✓
Price River Coal
McKean (2)