



STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Oil, Gas & Mining

Norman H. Bangerter, Governor
Dee C. Hansen, Executive Director
Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D., Division Director

355 W. North Temple • 3 Triad Center • Suite 350 • Salt Lake City, UT 84180-1203 • 801-538-5340

January 16, 1987

Mr. Reed Christensen
Manti-LaSal National Forest
599 West Price River Road
Price, Utah 84501

FILE COPY

Dear Mr. Christensen:

Re: Open Coal Storage, Skyline Mine, ACT/007/005, Folder No. 2,
Carbon County, Utah

In our telephone conversation of January 15, 1987, you requested an overview of the meeting held at the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining's offices on January 7, 1987, wherein the U. S. Forest Services concerns vis a' vis open coal storage at the above-captioned mine were enumerated.

Attending this meeting were Bill Boley and Ira Hatch (Manti-LaSal National Forest); L. P. Braxton and Susan Linner (Utah Div. Oil, Gas & Mining); and Rick Holbrook (Office of Surface Mining).

An outline of the permit history of open coal storage at this operation was presented by DOGM. Manti-LaSal Forest personnel stressed that in two instances provision for open coal storage beyond the originally permitted temporary 17,000 tons was approved by OSM and/or DOGM without opportunity for comment by USFS. The need for improved inter-agency communication on permit matters in general was stressed by all parties.

The Coastal States' Skyline Mine is presently maintaining open coal stockpiles in excess of 100,000 tons on this site. Coal is being transported uphill from the portals to the stockpiles. Mr. Boley expressed a concern that coal fines falling from transport trucks hauling to stockpiles could result in environmental degradation off of the mine permit area. Mr. Boley also raised a traffic safety concern attendant to uphill truck transports having to swing across the downhill traffic lanes when emerging from a lower mine site during a haul to the above-captioned stockpiles.

Concerns regarding fugitive dust (wind blown coal fines) off the permit area were raised, as was the potential for water pollution emanating from the permit area related to the mine sedimentation pond's inability to handle coal fines attendant to thaw of frost from the coal stockpiles. A potential for damming the middle fork of Eccles Creek against the north coal stockpile was noted. This potential could exist if mud flows and debris were to block the culverted portion of this drainage west of the north coal stockpile.

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Four priorities for open coal storage were stated by Mr. Boley at the conclusion of the meeting:

1. Modify open storage practice at the north storage area to eliminate "bank to bank" storage.
2. Mitigate traffic safety hazards associated with uphill coal transportation.
3. Eliminate the north open coal storage area.
4. Eliminate the south open coal storage area.

NOTE: Mr. Boley indicated a need to deal with priority number 1 well in advance of spring thaw and runoff. He also indicated he would be in contact with the Utah Department of Transportation regarding priority number 2. No time frames were established for priorities 3 and 4.

These concerns were voiced to Keith Zobell and Bill Shriver by members of your staff on January 9, 1987, and to Glen Zumwalt and members of his staff by myself and Susan Linner on January 14, 1987. In the meeting held January 14, Mr. Zumwalt reacted positively towards seeking resolution of the above-listed priorities 1 and 2.

Mr. Zumwalt would like to discuss the ramifications of elimination of open coal storage with you and members of your staff, and the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining. In this regard, I telephoned you and you stated a desire for me to propose that such a meeting take place at 10:00 a.m. on February 4, 1987 at the Skyline Mine. I proposed this date and time to Mr. Zumwalt, and he indicated that it would be acceptable to him. Please confirm your acceptance of this schedule at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Lowell P. Braxton
Administrator
Mineral Resource Development
and Reclamation Program

jvb
cc: G. Zumwalt, Coastal States
K. May
S. Linner
0799R-39