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Jim ...
ACT/007/008 Pldv # 3



IN REPLY REFER TO:



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Moab District
Price River Resource Area
900 North 700 East
Price, Utah 84501

3480
U-0147570
(UT-066)

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
Certification No. P 118 951 041



NOV 16 1993

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DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

Mr. Ken M. Payne
Vice President/General Manager
Utah Fuel Company - Skyline
P.O. Box 719
Helper, Utah 84526

Re: Minor Modification to the Approved Resource Recovery and Protection Plan - Relocate South Mains Development in the Skyline Mine No. 3

Dear Mr. Payne:

On October 18, 1993, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received a written request from Utah Fuel Company (UFC) to modify the approved resource recovery and protection plan (R2P2) for the Skyline Mine No. 3. UFC also submitted additional information regarding this mine plan change on October 28, 1993. The affected coal reserves are located (in descending order) in the Upper O'Connor, Lower O'Connor-B, and Lower O'Connor-A coalbeds on Federal coal lease U-147570.

The currently approved mining plan was to develop the South Mains in mine No. 3 between #61 and #67 crosscuts of the 1st West Mains (see enclosure). UFC is now proposing to develop the South Mains between #16 and #18 crosscuts; development may be shifted 100 feet to the east. UFC also proposes to neck four entries off the 2nd West Mains.

According to UFC, the new South Mains location is preferable because it will provide efficient access to mine No. 2 coal reserves. The proposed neck-off entries are for future construction of a shaft and a rock slope for mine No. 2.

The currently approved plan (May 1988) shows that the South Mains development is in the Lower O'Connor-A coalbed. The approved location is overlain by two undeveloped coalbeds (the Upper O'Connor and the Lower O'Connor-B). Also, the development will intersect a fault zone with 35 feet vertical displacement. The fault zone was witnessed and documented by a BLM mining engineer from the Price Coal Office. On August 1, 1989, the 2nd West Mains of mine No. 1 in the Upper O'Connor coalbed progressed through the fault and a highly fractured zone. On May 23, 1990, the same fault prevented the advancement of the 1st West Mains of mine No. 3 beyond #103 crosscut.

No reserves in the Lower O'Connor-A coalbed are above the proposed area. Proposed mining is partially under the portal entries of mine No. 1. Development will be under 400 feet of

No reserves in the Lower O'Connor-A coalbed are above the proposed area. Proposed mining is partially under the portal entries of mine No. 1. Development will be under 400 feet of overburden and under 145 feet of interburden that contain 87 percent sandstone. Available geologic information shows that the South Mains may be developing through a zone of rock splits. Shifting the proposed development 100 feet to the east will not superimpose protective barrier pillars for the South Mains in the Skyline Mines No. 1 and No. 3.

Based on the BLM's observations, analysis, and standard industry operating practice, relocating the South Mains development will reduce the risk of losing coal reserves due to multiple coalbed mining. The proposed development will provide shorter and cleaner access to mine No. 2 and will also enhance ventilation. The proposed neck-off entries will be used to develop a shaft and a slope that will provide ventilation and coal haulage for mine No. 2 in the future. Shifting the proposed development 100 feet to the east may endanger entries stability for the South Mains in both mines No. 1 and No. 3.

Therefore, the BLM authorizes UFC to develop the South Mains between #16 and #18 crosscuts of the 1st West Mains and neck-off four entries for the future construction of shaft and rock slope in the Skyline Mine No. 2. Development should remain in the proposed location or shifted to the east more than 100 feet, leaving an adequate barrier pillar to protect the South Mains in both mines No. 1 and No. 3. Exact location should be submitted to the BLM for filing no later than 30 days after your receipt of this letter.

The BLM has determined that the mine plan change is in compliance with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, the regulations at 43 CFR 3480, the lease terms and stipulations, and will achieve maximum economic recovery of the Federal coal. A copy of the approved mine map is enclosed.

If you have any questions, please contact Abe Elias in the Price River Resource Area Coal Office at 801-637-4584.

Sincerely,

MARK E. BAILEY

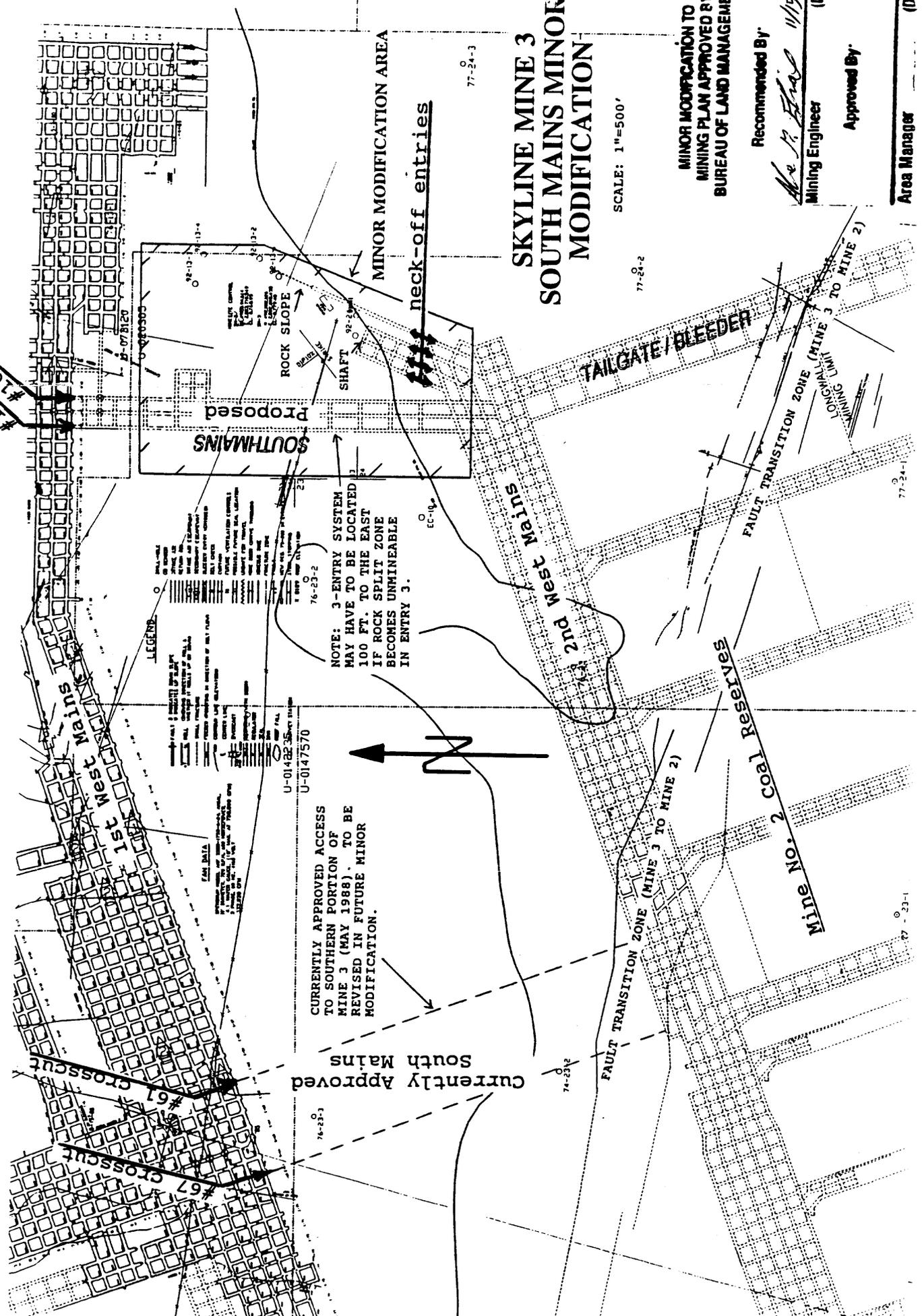
Area Manager

Enclosure

Approved Mine Map (1p)

cc: DM, Moab (UT-065) (w/enclosure)
SD, Utah (UT-921) (w/enclosure)
UDOGM, Salt Lake City (w/enclosure)
355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center
Salt Lake City, UT 84180-1203

#16 crosscut
#18 crosscut



LEGEND

- Proposed
- Existing
- ...

NOTE: 3-ENTRY SYSTEM MAY HAVE TO BE LOCATED 100 FT. TO THE EAST IF ROCK SPLIT ZONE BECOMES UNMINEABLE IN ENTRY 3.

CURRENTLY APPROVED ACCESS TO SOUTHERN PORTION OF MINE 3 (MAY 1988) TO BE REVISED IN FUTURE MINOR MODIFICATION.

Currently Approved South Mains

SKYLINE MINE 3 SOUTH MAINS MINOR MODIFICATION

SCALE: 1"=500'

MINOR MODIFICATION TO
MINING PLAN APPROVED BY
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Recommended By:

W. P. E. ...
Mining Engineer (Date) 11/5/93

Approved By:

Area Manager (Date)