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Route - file in Plateau Star Pt #1 & 2
ACT/007/006
JWS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

Manti-LaSal National Forest
350 East Main Street
Price, Utah 84501

2820

November 14, 1978

Mr. Jack Moffitt
Area Mining Supervisor
U.S.G.S. Conservation Division
8426 Federal Building
125 South State Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138

Dear Mr. Moffitt:

We have reviewed the Mining Plan and the Environmental Analysis for the Plateau Mining Company Star Point No. 1 and 2 Mines. We concur with your determination that the proposed action does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment in the sense of NEPA, and the impact of the proposed action are not likely to be controversial.

Although we find no particular problem with the mining plans we can only concur conditionally to their approval as the Hydrologic/Subsidence Monitoring Plan is not acceptable.

May I emphasize that the success of the subsidence/hydrologic monitoring is dependent upon establishment of baseline data upon which the effect of mining may be measured. The continuation of the mining without the baseline data being established may invalidate any future monitoring.

We feel it urgent to the success of Resource Monitoring at this mine that an acceptable plan be prepared as soon as possible. We request that baseline data be obtained and presented for review prior to approval of this mine plan.

We find the report to contain several errors as follows:

1. The access road in Mudwater Canyon has been closed out and the road reclaimed.
2. More springs exist than the two indicated.
3. The mine air breakout and fan facilities in Mudwater Canyon are on Forest Service property.
4. Page 7 is missing.
5. Reseeding: Smooth Bone Grass? Must be Smooth Brome Grass.
6. The Forest lands that these leases encompass are used for recreation, grazing, timber, watershed, wildlife, and minerals.

7. Current land uses could potentially change if the existing water regime is altered.

8. There are more watersheds included in the lease areas than those listed.

The report doesn't appear to have been changed at all since we last reviewed it and submitted our comments.

Sincerely,

Reed C. Christensen

REED C. CHRISTENSEN
Forest Supervisor

cc: Ron Daniels, Div. of Oil, Gas, & Mining, S.L.C.