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United States Department of the Interior
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
Reclamation and Enforcement
BROOKS TOWERS
1020 15TH STREET
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

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Route Copy
Copy to Wayne and Sally

Jim
Response sent to UP&L 6-22-81

JUN 6 1981

Mr. James W. Smith Jr.
Coordinator of Mined Land Development
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
1588 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Dear Jim:

Enclosed are comments from the Manti LaSal National Forest concerning Utah Power and Light's (UP&L) request for a breakout in Miller Canyon. I request that your Office forward these comments to UP&L. This Office has no additional comments in regard to this action.

Also enclosed are the Manti LaSal comments concerning the Star Point Mines. As agreed upon by our staffs, we have started the technical environmental assessment on this mining and reclamation plan. If you have any questions in regard to these reviews, please contact John Nadolski (303) 837-3773 of my staff.

Sincerely,

DONALD A. CRANE

Enclosures

cc: Jackson Moffitt, USGS, SLC
Reed Christensen, Manti LaSal, Price

ACT/007/006

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

Manti-LaSal National Forest
599 West Price River Drive
Price, Utah 84501

2820

May 13, 1981

John Nadolski
OSM - Reclamation and Enforcement
Brooks Towers - 1020 15th Street
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Mr. Nadolski:

The Forest Service has reviewed the Star Point Mines Mining and Reclamation Plan, 1981. We have made several comments of which should be beneficial to Plateau Mining Company and to local, State, and Federal agencies, who play a part in this mine plan. The comments are attached.

If there are any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,

W. K. Bailey

for
REED C. CHRISTENSEN
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

6200-11 (1/69)

Plateau Mining Company

Mining and Reclamation Plan

STAR POINT MINES

Vol. 1, Chapter 1, page 2.

"One vertical shaft from the surface to the coal seam in Federal Lease U-13097 is anticipated." As much lead time as possible is needed to incorporate this project into the work plan of the Forest Service.

Vol. 1, Chapter 1, page 7.

"Subsidence caused by the mines will have little effect on springs." What about changes in groundwater migration?

Vol. 1, Chapter 1, page 8.

"Impacts on vegetative resources will not be major since the Star Point Mines are underground." What about the effects of subsidence?

Vol. 1, Chapter 1, page 9.

"Monitoring of ground and surface water will be conducted and mitigating measures employed if any significant impact occurs." Mitigation needs to be spelled out before impacts occur.

Vol. 1, Chapter 1, page 9.

"Lost winter mule deer forage is made up by revegetation and by increasing the vegetation of surrounding areas in the interim." How?

Vol. 1, Chapter 3, page 18.

"An emergency escape and intake air shaft is proposed for construction on Gentry Mountain sometime in the future." More detail is needed.

Vol. 1, Chapter 3, page 19.

"Slope hole at the Lion Deck Portal, 250,000 gallon underground storage reservoir and sewage system." How are these to be backfilled?

Plate 7 - 6, Springs. Is this all the springs?

Vol. 1, Chapter 3, page 85.

"Backfill, Compaction, Grading." A general section - needs more detail.

Vol. 1, Chapter 3, page 85.

"Soils will be stabilized by physical and chemical methods before planting." This is very general, need specific techniques, etc.

Vol. 1, Chapter 3, page 86.

"Since the Star Point Mine is an underground mine, the overall impact on surface vegetation is minor." What about subsidence?

Vol. 1, Chapter 3, page 98.

"On the western portion of the area, approximately 70 small springs or seeps have been located." What is the relationship of all the springs identified in the mine area to the geology and stratigraphy?

Vol. 1, Chapter 3, page 99.

"The mitigation of flow reductions or drying up of a water source must be site specific." What measures are planned if some springs dry up?

Vol. 1, Chapter 3, page 100.

"Principal springs and seeps are being monitored..." What is the relationship between geology and the hydrologic regime to pick out selected principal springs and seeps to be monitored?

Vol. 1, Chapter 3, page 103.

"Plateau Mining Company....to restore the property to a variety of alternative uses." What are these possibilities?

Vol. 1, Chapter 3, page 105.

"A suitably permanent....diverse vegetative cover....will be established...." What is proposed?

Vol. 1, Chapter 3, page 109.

"Plateau Mining....will employ the necessary measures to ensure the stability of topsoil on graded slopes." What are the necessary measures?

Vol. 1, Chapter 3, page 114.

"Compaction operations, utilizing equipment such as sheeps-foot-tampers, will be conducted...." This is too general, be more specific.

Vol. 1, Chapter 3, page 114.

"The cut slopes will be constructed in a manner which will achieve the necessary physical stability." Detailed plans are needed.

Vol. 1, Chapter 3, page 115.

"Erosion control measures which will be employed are specific to each situation." What erosion control measures will be used and where?

Vol. 2, Chapter 4, page 20.

"Pillars will be pulled uniformly from areas of room-and-pillar mining to promote even subsidence and thus reduce subsidence effects. Subsidence will be further reduced by longwall mining where appropriate in new areas." How do you get even subsidence over room and pillar areas? How does this reduce subsidence effects? How will longwall mining reduce effects of subsidence?

Vol. 2, Chapter 4, page 24.

"Manage and protect important...paleontological resources..." The impact section does not address paleontology.

Vol. 2, Chapter 4, page 26.

"Wildlife has adapted to the operation...continued operation...will have no impact." What about behavioral avoidance by elk, and road kill of deer and other wildlife?

Vol. 2, Chapter 4 -

Page 26 does not read fluently to page 27.

Vol. 2, Chapter 4, page 27.

"It is anticipated that about 250 new employees would be needed if the mine expands to 4,000,000 tons/year. This would not significantly effect the socio-economics of the area." Where would the new employees live? Would there not be a large effect of moving 250 employees and their families to the small communities?

A potential problem exists in the use of the 24-hour design storm. Such storms are uncommon in this area and would not likely cause as much damage as a short duration (1-2 hour) storm. Short duration summer storms generally have very high intensities during the first 15 to 30 minutes. This can result in flash flooding which may have an impact on the sediment ponds. A 24-hour design storm would not reflect this.

Why was station 25.1 deleted from the surface program? Station 34.2 is over 1.5 miles downstream from 25.1. Natural variation could easily confuse results between the two stations. It is doubtful as to how representative 34.2 is of 25.1.