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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
Manti-LaSal National Forest
599 West Price River Drive
Price, Utah 84501

2820

September 23, 1982

JIM

OCT 01 1982

Shirley Lindsay
OSM - Reclamation and Enforcement
Brooks Towers - 1020 15th Street
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Ms. Lindsay:

The attached Environmental Assessment and FONSI/Decision Notice is concurrence by the Forest Service for the proposed breakout in Corner Canyon. The management requirements on pages 1 and 2 must be followed.

If there are any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,

W. H. Boley

for
REED C. CHRISTENSEN
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

DECISION NOTICE AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Plateau Mining Company, a subsidiary of Getty Mining Company, has submitted a proposal for construction of a set of ventilation breakouts in the South Fork of Corner Canyon on the Manti-LaSal National Forest in Section 12, T15S,R7E, SLM, Emery County, Utah (see Fig. 1). The present proposal for the Corner Canyon location is submitted as a revision to Plateau's previously approved group of breakouts in Seeley Canyon, approximately 3500 feet to the east. This revision was required because of unanticipated mining conditions encountered on approach to Seeley Canyon. Mine development in this area encountered burned coal at an approximate distance of 1000 ft. from the outcrop. Crossing this extensive burned area to construct the breakouts would have involved extremely hazardous mining conditions and would have required significant additional expense. As a result of additional study Plateau determined that the Corner Canyon location could provide adequate ventilation capacity and eliminate the need for breakouts in Seeley Canyon. In both cases, the breakouts are proposed to provide additional ventilation for Plateau's present mining in this area and for anticipated future mining in adjacent reserves.

A set of five entries will be driven outward parallel to the present main entries to construct the breakouts. These entries will be constructed on 80 ft. centers by room-and-pillar mining using continuous miners. All construction will be from underground. Once the breakouts are constructed a deck area will be prepared and a return ventilation fan will be installed at the No. 5 (northernmost) entry. The fan and associated facilities will occupy an approximate 50X100 ft. area immediately outside this breakout. The four remaining breakouts will be used for intake ventilation. No surface access will be required for either construction of the breakouts or installation of the ventilation fan. Plateau's proposal describes the breakout construction, fan installation and other pertinent factors in greater detail.

The affected environment of the area has been described in numerous previous environmental assessments prepared to evaluate coal leasing, coal exploration and similar breakouts in this vicinity. Further discussion of the affected environment is not necessary, however, because the proposed breakouts will not create any significant impacts. Any impacts that would result can be mitigated or eventually reclaimed upon the completion of mining or abandonment of these breakouts.

Several Forest Service management concerns were identified by the ID Team in preparation of this environmental assessment:

1. Identification and protection of any paleontological or archeological resources that may exist at the breakout locations.

2. Prevention of unnecessary surface disturbance and unnecessary impacts to other resources.

3. Proper reclamation of the breakouts and disturbed areas.

These concerns and any related resource impacts will be eliminated or effectively mitigated by adherence to the following surface management requirements.

1. Cultural resources clearance must be obtained prior to construction of the breakouts and ventilation facilities.

2. The breakouts will be constructed entirely from underground by continuing the existing mine workings. Suitable roof support measures will be implemented to prevent escarpment failure during and after construction of the breakouts.

3. All personnel access and transportation of construction and ventilation equipment or other materials to and from the location will be from underground or by helicopter. No surface access by motorized vehicles or equipment will be permitted.

4. Any surface disturbance for construction and installation of the ventilation fan will be confined to the minimum area reasonably necessary for installation of this facility.

5. All refuse, construction waste and other debris will be transported back through the breakout entries and properly disposed of. No earth materials or other construction debris will be cast downslope from the breakout location.

6. When completed, the breakouts will be fenced to preclude surface access.

7. All disturbed areas will be reseeded with the following seed mixture at a rate of 20 lbs/acre.

3 lbs	Smooth Brome
3 lbs	Timothy
2 lbs	Intermediate wheatgrass
1 lb	Kentucky bluegrass
1 lb	Ranger Alfalfa

8. Upon completion of mining or abandonment of these facilities the ventilation fan and associated equipment will be removed and the disturbed areas recontoured and reseeded as directed above. The individual entries will be permanently sealed to surface access in compliance with the requirements of the responsible Federal agencies.

The only alternatives to the proposed action are disapproval of the proposed breakouts (the "No Action" alternative) or relocation of the breakouts to a more suitable site. Since, the breakouts can be constructed at the proposed location without creating any significant adverse impacts, there is no justification for disapproving or relocating the facilities. Neither of these alternatives, therefore, is considered to be viable.

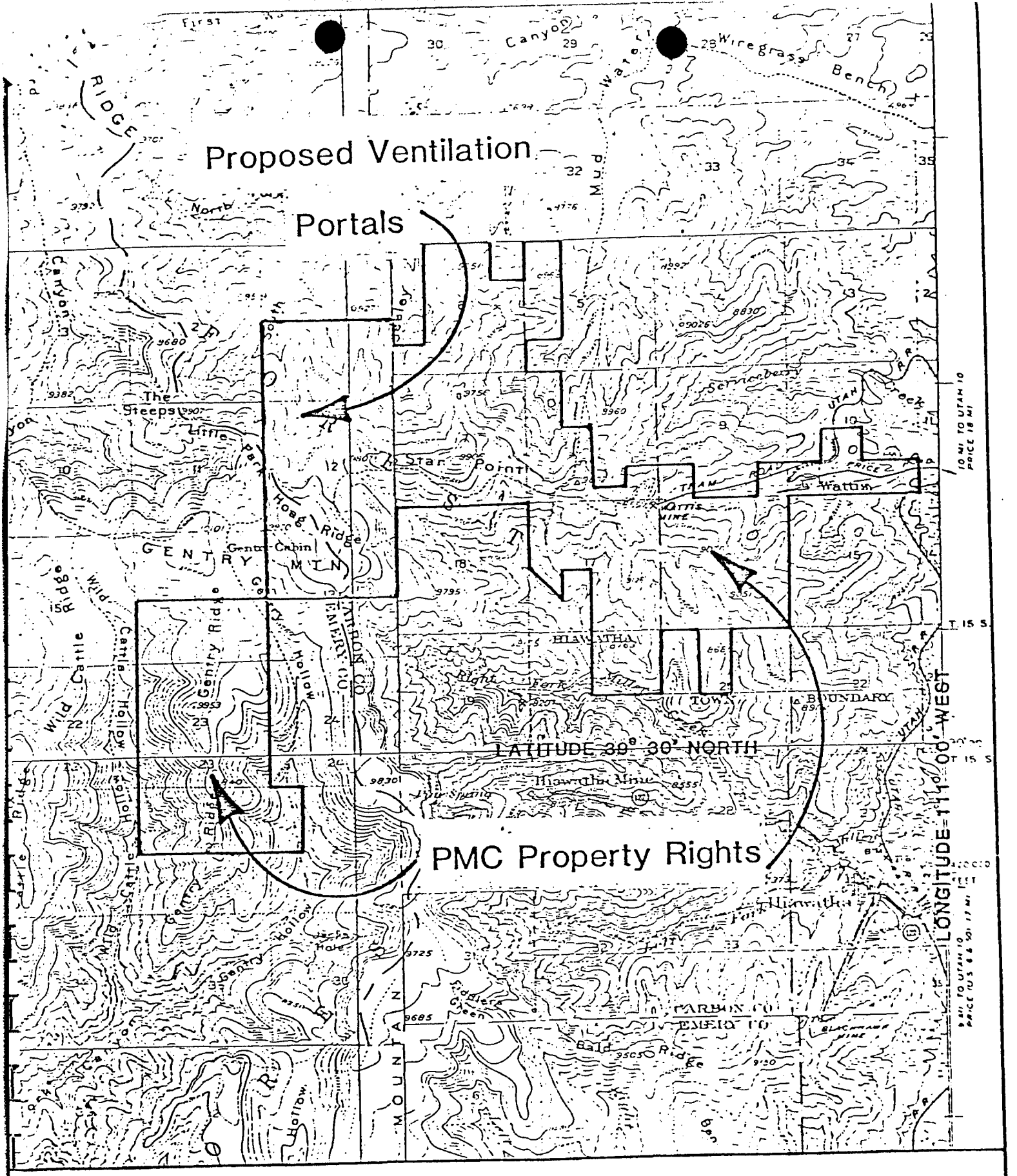
Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the responsible Forest Service official has determined, through the environmental assessment process, that construction of the breakouts and ventilation fan will not create any significant impacts to the human environment. An environmental statement, therefore, will not be required. As a result of the environmental assessment the responsible official has also decided to approve the proposed project subject to the specified management requirements.

Copies of Plateau's proposal, previous environmental assessments and other pertinent documents are on file and available for review at the Price Ranger District Office, 10 N. Carbon Avenue, Price, Utah 84501. Implementation of the proposed action may take place immediately upon approval.

Responsible Official:

Reed C Chambers
Forest Supervisor

9/23/82
Date



LOCATION MAP

MAP NO. 1