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

2820

May 19, 1983

Mr. James W. Smith
State of Utah
Dept. of Natural Resources and Energy
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
4241 State Office Building
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Dear Mr. Smith:

The attached Environmental Assessment and FONSI/Decision Notice are concurrence by the Forest Service for the proposed breakout as supplemented in plans submitted March 30, 1983. In addition to meeting the management requirements on page 2 and 3, the construction plans must be modified to include a self-closing spigot on the steel containment box, and provide detailed plans of the retaining structure between entries #2 and #4, prior to initiating construction.

If there are any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,

W. H. Daly
for
REED C. CHRISTENSEN
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

RECEIVED
MAY 27 1983
DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

DECISION NOTICE AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

CORNER CANYON AIR VENTILATION FACILITY
PLATEAU MINING COMPANY

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 supplement 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 are 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 are and for anticipated future mining in adjacent reserves.

The original proposal included a set of five entries that would be driven outward parallel to the present main entries to construct the breakouts. These entries would be constructed on 80 ft. centers by room-and-pillar mining using continuous miners. All construction would be from underground. Once the breakouts were constructed a deck area would be prepared and a return ventilation fan would be installed at the No. 5 (northernmost) entry. The four remaining breakouts would be used for intake ventilation. No surface access would be required for either construction of the breakouts or installation of the ventilation fan.

The present proposal supplement dated March 30, 1983 was submitted to provide specific details of the construction, maintenance and reclamation of the now proposed air ventilation project. The present project would entail the following: Three entries or portals (Nos. 1,2 & 4) will be opened to the outside. Portals 1 and 2 would be utilized for intake air. The ventilation fan would be placed at the opening of No. 4 on a deck that would also contain the motor house and a 1,000 gallon diesel fuel storage tank with containment structure. Primary electric power would be supplied by a cable strung through the mine. A diesel engine will supply backup power. Entry two would be connected the the deck area by a small, buttressed fill. As no conventional surface access is considered, all construction would be conducted from portals 2 and 4. Overland flow, onsite precipitation and erosion will all be controlled. Surplus subsoil and rock materials will be stored underground. Topsoil will be stored in an approved stockpile.

Reclamation will be completed according to an approved plan.

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.

A Forest Service ID Team has evaluated the proposal as described in the Permit Application and it's Supplement dated March 30, 1983. An Environmental Assessment was prepared and approved on September 23, 1982 covering the initial permit proposal. After a review of the Supplement, no new issues or concerns were identified. Several Forest Service management concerns were identified by the ID Team in preparation of the original 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 entires will be permanently sealed to surface access in compliance with the requirements of the responsible Federal agencies.

9. The general surface shall be essentially snow free prior to construction activities taking place.

10. Topsoil from the disturbed area will be saved and stockpiled for use in reclamation. Topsoil will be transported to Plateau's existing approved stockpile area.

11. A mesh fence will be constructed below the disturbed areas to catch and hold material from rolling downhill. This fence should be installed prior to any earthwork and as close to the pad as possible.

12. The brow interception ditch above the workings shall be constructed using hand tools and manual labor. No motorized equipment will be allowed above the entries without written permission from the Forest Service.

13. Any merchantable timber removed shall be paid for at current rates. In the event the cost of administering and determining the value exceeds the value of the timber this may be waived in writing by the Forest Service.

    Any timber disturbed or removed shall be disposed of as directed by the Forest Service.

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.

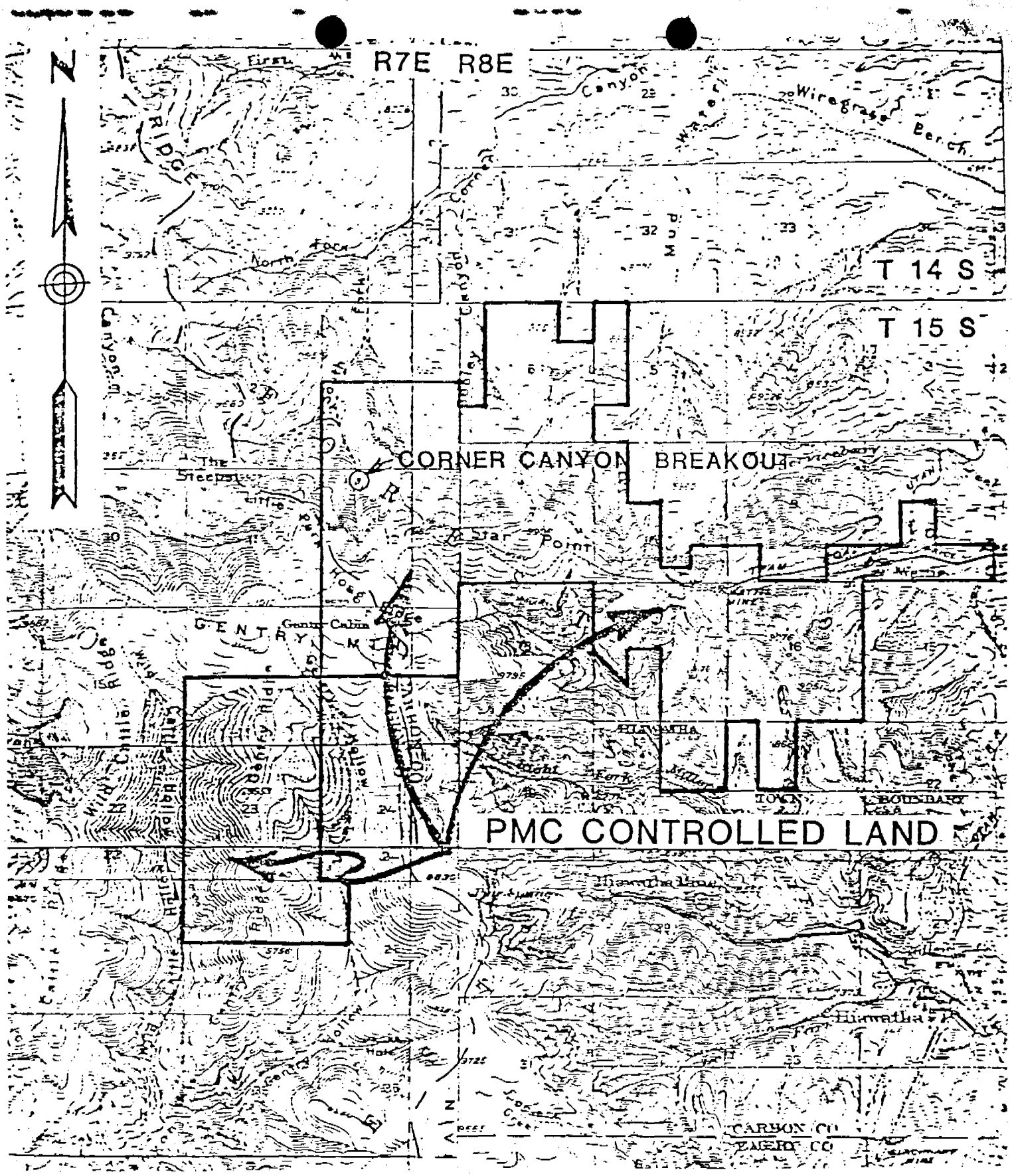
Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the responsible Forest Service official has determined, through the environmental assessment process, that construction of the breakouts and ventilation fan will not create any significant impacts to the human environment. An environmental statement,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

May 19, 1983
Date



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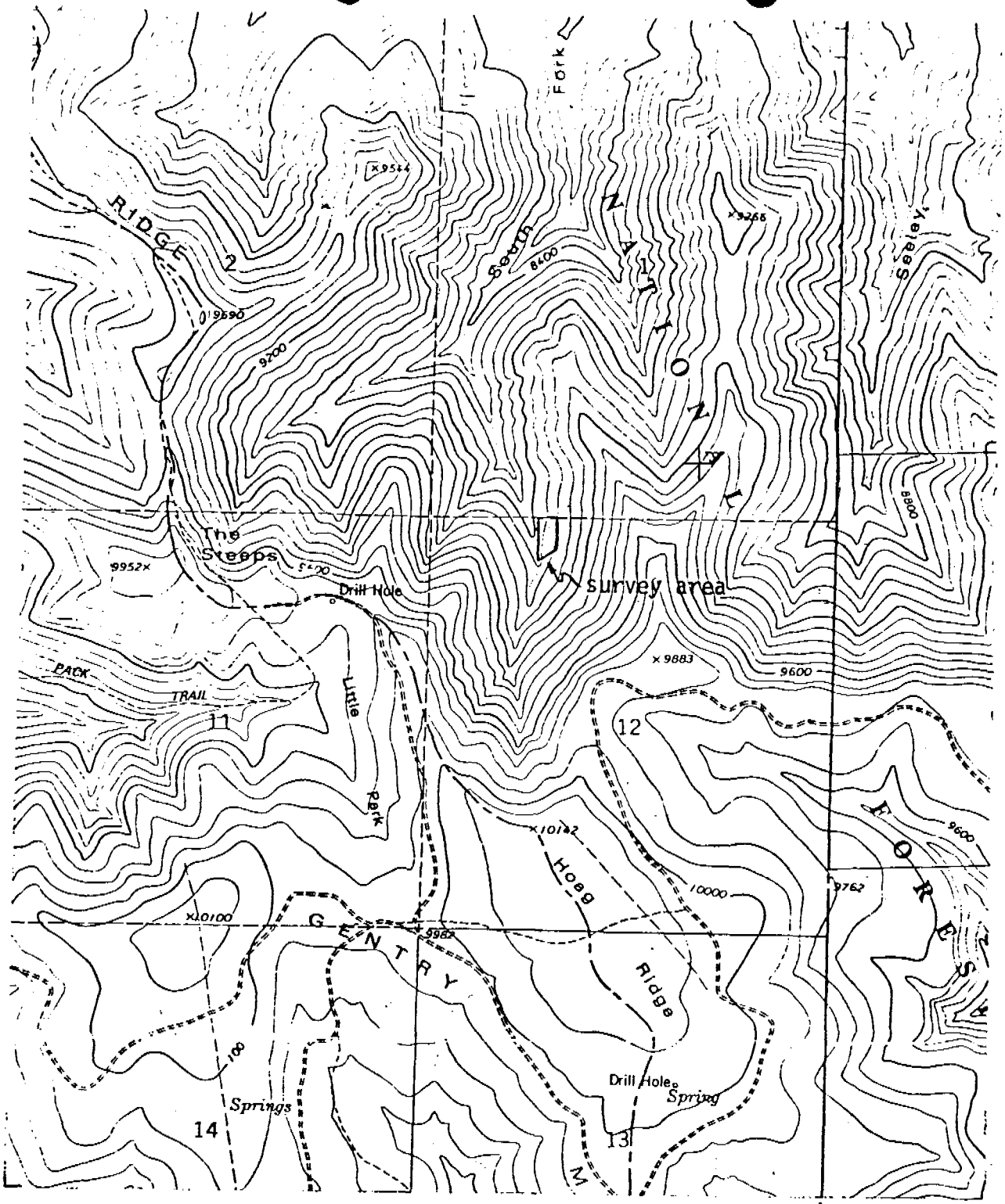
R7E R8E
T 14 S
T 15 S
CORNER CANYON BREAKOUT
PMC CONTROLLED LAND
Wiregrass Bench
Star Point
GENTRY MTN
HIAWATHA
TOWN BOUNDARY
CARBON CO
EMERY CO



Contour interval 80 feet