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TECHNICAL ANALYSIS.

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TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

Plateau Mining Company
Star Point Mine
ACT/007/006, Carbon County, Utah

August 5, 1987

UMC 785.19 Alluvial Valley Floors-(RVS)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

Unconsolidated streamlaid deposits do not occur within, or in close proximity to, the permit area. Limited Quarternary alluvium (Qal) has been identified along lower Nuck Woodward Canyon and Huntington Creek (Doelling, 1972). Technical staff inspection of the mine site and adjacent area have not identified the existence of flood irrigation (or its historical use) or the capability of stream valleys to be flood irrigated or subirrigated.

Compliance

Sufficient information about alluvial streamlaid deposits and irrigation are available for DOGM to determine as required by UMC 785.19(c)(2) that no alluvial valley floors exist with or in close proximity to the proposed permit area.

The applicant is in compliance with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.11 Signs and Markers-(PGL)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

This regulation has not been addressed in the PAP.

Compliance

The applicant did not submit information in the PAP.

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The applicant will be in compliance when the following stipulation is met.

Stipulation 817.11-(1)-(PGL)

The Plateau Mining Company shall submit by October 31, 1987 for inclusion in the PAP, all details about signs and markers as required by this regulation.

UMC 817.13-.15 Casing and Sealing of Underground Openings--(RVS)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

Boreholes

The applicant has drilled 43 exploration boreholes along Gentry Ridge, Hoag Ridge, and Star Point, within and adjacent to the permit area (Maps 26 and 27). Borehole 86-26-4, located at the southern terminus of Gentry Ridge, has been developed into a ground-water monitoring well. Two additional water wells were drilled in Section 10, T15S, R8E during the late 1970's (PAP, page 783-38).

The applicant states that upon abandonment, all exploration drillholes are to be completely plugged with an approved cement to within three (3) feet of the surface (PAP, page 784-57).

Boreholes to be retained for water monitoring during mine operations will be temporarily sealed with locking caps or by enclosing the well head in a locked manhole (PAP, page 784-58).

Entries

The applicant identifies the development of three portals in Corner Canyon, seven portals at Mud Water Canyon, two portals at Lion Deck, and two portals at Portal Area No. 2. Ten portals have been abandoned and sealed in the No. 1 and No. 2 Mine areas.

Temporarily inactive entries will be fenced or barricaded and posted with warning signs (PAP, page 784-58). Temporary seals will be periodically inspected.

The applicant commits to sealing all mine entries upon completion of mining (PAP, page 784-57). Seals will be constructed of solid concrete blocks in a double wall thickness, located a minimum of 25 feet in by the entryway and recessed 16 inches into the rib and 12 inches into the floor (PAP, page 784-57 and 784-58). A pilaster will be incorporated into the center of the seal. A two-inch drain pipe will be installed from the concrete seal to the entryway (PAP, Figure 20).

Entries will be backfilled to the seal with noncombustible material. The entryway and adjacent highwall (including exposed seam) area will be backfilled with noncombustible material, graded, covered with suitable topsoil material and revegetated (PAP, page 784-58).

Compliance

The applicant's plans for permanently sealing boreholes and entries are designed to prevent access and preclude toxic drainage from entering ground or surface water as required by UMC 817.13 and 817.15.

The applicant has provided adequate plans for temporarily sealing boreholes and entries that are temporarily inactive as required by UMC 817.14.

The applicant is in compliance with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.22 Topsoil: Removal-(DD)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The only areas proposed for topsoil removal are the proposed Gentry Mountain Shaft Site which consists of less than one acre and 14.67 acres on the southwest corner of the refuse expansion area. Profile descriptions for these areas are given in Exhibit 19, page 40-42 for the refuse expansion area, and page 48-50 for the Gentry Mountain area. These descriptions of soils are delineated on maps 39 and 40 respectively. Chemical and physical analysis for these areas are also given in Tables 59 and 65 of the PAP.

Compliance

According to profile description along with the chemical and physical data provided. There are no limiting chemical or physical characteristics within the proposed salvage depths. The soils on the refuse expansion area, to be removed, will be live-hauled to the extent that adequate reclaimed acreage is available. If this material cannot be used in reclamation, then the balance will be hauled to the subsoil stockpile for storage (page 784-27 of the PAP). The soil placed on this stockpile will be stabilized by planting the interim seed mixture. According to the PAP, page 784-28, the Gentry Mountain topsoil plan cannot be presented at this time due to lack of detailed planning. In the event that it becomes

operationally necessary to construct this facility within the permit term of this application, PMC will submit detailed plans outlining the exact location of the shaft facilities, topsoil removal depths, sediment control plans, and detailed reclamation plans (PAP, page 784-28).

The applicant is in compliance with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.24 Topsoil: Redistribution-(DD)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

In areas constructed prior to SMCRA, before topsoil was salvaged, the applicant proposes to use existing fill materials as a plant growth medium. Where encountered, buried topsoil will be salvaged and used. Table 61 provides chemical and physical characteristics of the cut and fill material. According to these analyses, the material does not show any major restrictive parameters.

The applicant proposes to reduce potential slippage on the interface between the regraded fill and respread topsoil by scarifying or ripping the soil prior to redistribution of the topsoil. To avoid unnecessary compaction of the respread soil materials, the applicant commits to spreading topsoil when moisture conditions will not increase the likelihood of compaction, and by avoiding trafficking of equipment across the retopsoiled areas. The applicant also proposes to rip areas retopsoiled where trucks, loaders, dozers, or scrapers were used to alleviate compaction where slopes permit.

Six inches of topsoil will be spread over the unit train load out facilities. This includes Sedimentation Pond 8, the silo area, and the southern end of the coal conveyor. This material is presently stored near the coal silo, and is designated on the Disturbed Area Soil Map No. 39 in the PAP. This stockpile contains 1500 cubic yards of material. Soils removed from the northern end of the conveyor are stockpiled adjacent to the existing topsoil stockpile and contain 200 cubic yards of material.

Topsoil will be redistributed at the corner canyon fan site using the topsoil originally removed from the site. This topsoil consists of 200 cubic yards and is stockpiled adjacent to the existing stockpile. The topsoil will be transported back through the mine to the fan site. Five thousand (5,000) cubic yards of subsoil is also being stored in the mine adjacent to the fan site.

This will be redistributed prior to topsoiling. For the .44 acre site these volumes of soil material are equivalent to 7 feet of subsoil and 3 inches of topsoil.

Topsoil was not salvaged when the Lion Deck access road was constructed. The Board granted a variance on August 8, 1979, approving the cut and fill construction method without topsoil salvaging. The applicant has committed to reclaiming the road using the fill material.

The applicant's volumetric estimates indicate that approximately 17 inches of stockpiled soil material is available for redistribution on the coal refuse and lower facilities area. Surveys of the stockpiles indicate there are 192,065 cubic yards of material available.

Compliance

Samples taken in the cut and fill material are located on Map No. 39. Table 61 of the PAP gives chemical and physical parameters of this material. According to the analyses, this material is suitable for use as a plant growth medium.

According to acreage given in bond calculations, Exhibit 36 of the PAP, the unit train loadout facilities to be retopsoiled are equivalent to approximately 7.7 acres, which would require approximately 6,200 cubic yards of material to retopsoil this area at a depth of 6 inches. These figures should be verified so all areas that are to be retopsoiled are accounted for, since the PAP states there are only 1700 cubic yards stockpiled.

Table 60 of the PAP gives chemical data of samples taken from the Lion Deck access road. Samples 79-3820 and 79-3821 are saline based on Ec measurements suggesting this material should not be used for root growth medium. Before reclamation, sampling should be accomplished to verify these values and to locate saline materials so they are not placed in the root zone.

Present study plots on the coal refuse are addressing the amount of topsoil necessary to successfully reclaim the coal refuse and other applicable sites. To date, results of these study plots are promising, and indicate that 17 inches of topsoil soil should be sufficient to reclaim these sites, based on the proposed post mining land use. Acreage figures and locations must be given though, to clarify all areas which will receive 17 inches of topsoil from the 192,065 cubic yards of material stockpiled.

The applicant will be in compliance when the following stipulation is met.

Stipulation 817.24-(1)-(DD)

Plateau Mining Company must submit by October 31, 1987, for insertion into the PAP, a mass balance of all areas to be retopsoiled. This will include acreage figures of all locations to be retopsoiled, depth of topsoil to be redistributed, and amount and location of material presently stockpiled. The applicant must also commit to sample soils before reclamation on areas of the Lion Deck Portal that will be used for reclamation.

UMC 817.25 Topsoil Nutrients and Soil Amendments-(DD)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The applicant proposes to supplement all reclaimed areas with 40 pounds of Nitrogen and 30 pounds of Phosphorus per acre (PAP, page 784-39). These application rates are based on soil tests conducted on 40 samples for Nitrogen and 69 samples for Phosphorus. Potassium, Iron and Zinc were also analyzed for, but these parameters did not show deficiencies; therefore they will not be supplemented.

Compliance

According to recommendations by Utah State University (Personal communication from Carl Topper), the proposed supplementary rates for Nitrogen and Phosphorus are within adequate ranges. It should be recognized that there are many forms of Nitrogen fertilizers available, and when selecting a Nitrogen form, season of application is important to consider. Nitrate and Ammonium are the forms available for plant uptake. Nitrate is readily leached from the soil because of its negative charge, therefore a fall application of this form may be mostly lost from the soil before it can be used by plants in the spring. A fall application of an organic form of Nitrogen, such as Urea, would help prevent this loss because Urea must first be converted to Ammonium and then to Nitrate by soil microorganisms before it can be used by plants or leached from the soil. This conversion is temperature dependent, so in the cooler winter months when plants and soil microbes are inactive, most of the applied Nitrogen will be retained in the soil.

The applicant does not propose to use an organic mulch on areas that will be drill seeded. An organic amendment should not be ruled out in all cases. During reclamation there may be site specific cases which could benefit from an organic mulch; these would include sandy soil materials with little inherent organic matter content. The added organic matter will increase the water and nutrient holding capacity of these materials and aid in revegetation. Clayey soils derived from the Mancos shale also can benefit from organic

amendments. The organic matter increases infiltration and can improve soil structure and lower temperatures of these dark carbonaceous shales. Organic mulches also provide surface protection and are important for erosion control on steep slopes (at the time of final reclamation, the Division may require mulches on a site specific basis; see UMC 817.114)

The applicant is in compliance with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.41-.42 Hydrologic Balance: General Requirements

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

Ground Water-(RVS)

The applicant provides information about aquifers, springs and mine inflows on pages 783-7 through 783-52, 784-59, 784-60, 784-63, 784-64 and 784-80 through 784-105 of the PAP. Supplementary ground water data are given on Maps 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, and in Tables 4 through 9.

Aquifers. The applicant describes undifferentiated North Horn/Price River formation and the Blackhawk Formation/Star Point Sandstone as the major water-bearing lithostratigraphic units in the permit and adjacent area. The applicant concludes that a zone of "perched" aquifers occurs within certain permeable lithologies of the undifferentiated North Horn/Price River formation, whereas a regional aquifer occurs within the Blackhawk Formation/Star Point Sandstone. The applicant also delineates a north-south trending extensional fault and joint system that functions as a significant conduit for ground water. A preliminary piezometric surface for the regional aquifer is given on Map 27.

Ground-Water Use. Ground water within and adjacent to the permit area is used by wildlife and for stockwatering, domestic and industrial purposes. Table 9 lists 72 ground-water rights and Map 30 shows 78 ground-water rights within and adjacent to the permit area. Of these, 28 ground-water rights occur within the permit area. Mining has occurred beneath seven ground-water rights and is projected to occur beneath an additional nine ground-water rights.

Springs. Table 7 and Map 27 indicate 201 springs and ten seeps occurring within and adjacent to the permit area. Total discharge from springs is approximately 1200 gpm (Table 7). One hundred fifty-one (151) springs are identified as discharging from the

"perched" aquifer zone (about 1000 gpm); 25 springs discharge from the Castlegate Sandstone (about 60 gpm); 18 springs discharge from the regional aquifer (about 70 gpm); and seven springs discharge from the Mancos Shale (about 45 gpm).

Table 4 summarizes 99 water quality samples, collected between 1979 and 1985, for 11 springs that discharge from the "perched" aquifer zone. Table 7 presents 58 water quality analyses from 1986 for an additional 58 springs. These data indicate water from the "perched" aquifer zone average 260 mg/l bicarbonate, 238 mg/l TDS, 66 mg/l calcium and 20 mg/l sulphate. Three samples from three springs discharging from the Castlegate Sandstone were acquired for water quality analyses during 1986 (Table 7). These data indicate water from the Castlegate Sandstone is similar to water from the "perched" aquifer zone. Four samples from four springs that discharge from the regional aquifer were acquired for water quality analyses during 1986 (Table 7). These data differ from overlying ground-water resources in that the average water quality is degraded (e.g., 317 mg/l HCO_3 , 298 mg/l TDS, 72 mg/l Ca, 298 mg/l SO_3). Three samples from three springs located in the Mancos Shale were acquired for water quality analyses during 1986 (Table 7). These data indicate water quality is further decreased within the Mancos Shale (e.g., 393 mg/l HCO_3 , 442 mg/l TDS, 91 mg/l Ca, 88 mg/l SO_3).

Mine Inflow. Total mine inflow is measured at 16 monitoring locations (Map 28) and estimated to be 134 gpm, whereas total discharge from the mine is approximately 129 gpm (Table 8). The difference (5 gpm) between inflow and discharge values reflects in-mine and culinary water uses. Mine inflows are considered to be regional aquifer discharge. Five samples from these monitoring locations were acquired for water quality analyses during 1985 (Table 6). These data indicate mine inflow from the regional aquifer has the poorest water quality (e.g., 375 mg/l, HCO_3 , 442 mg/l TDS, 91 mg/l Ca, 319 mg/l SO_3).

Mine inflow is collected at two major sump areas entitled the "Mother Goose Sump" located in the Wattis seam and "Father Goose Sump", located in the Third seam (PAP, p. 783-44). Water from the "Father Goose Sump" is used for coal washing, fire protection and mining operations. Excess water from the "Mother Goose Sump" is discharged to the surface at Mud Water Canyon.

Mining Methods. Room and pillar mining has occurred beneath Star Point in all three coal seams and is projected to occur in the Hiawatha seam beneath the northern portion of Hoag Ridge. Approximately six springs overlie these previously mined areas. Longwall mining is currently occurring within the Wattis seam and is projected to occur within the Third seam beneath the northern portion of Hoag Ridge where overburden thickness ranges from

approximately 700 to 1500 feet. Approximately eight springs overlie these areas of current and projected mining. Longwall mining is also projected to occur in the Wattis seam beneath Gentry Ridge where overburden thickness ranges from approximately 1000 to 1700 feet. Approximately 30 springs overlie this area of projected mining.

Graben Crossing. The applicant proposes to develop a two-or three-entry tunnel across the Bear Canyon Graben to access the Wattis seam beneath Gentry Ridge. Boreholes CVR-5A, 83-14-3-C and CVR-6 encountered ground-water resources within Bear Canyon Graben. A comparison of water levels from CVR-5A (8,445 feet) and 83-14-3-C (8,315 feet) with water levels from boreholes drilled in areas of current mining (P-86-02-HD, P-86-03-WD, P-86-01-TD) suggests the regional aquifer occurs at a lower elevation within Bear Canyon Graben. The elevated water level (8,741 feet) penetrated by CVR-6 may be due to the occurrence of a localized saturated zone, either associated with encountering a zone of fault gouge or other permeable lithology.

Borehole 86-26-6 encountered the regional aquifer beneath Gentry Ridge at an elevation of 8,160 feet (personal communication, 2/4/87, B. Grimes). This data suggests that the piezometric surface of the regional aquifer beneath Gentry Ridge is elevated with respect to Bear Canyon Graben. If the ground-water gradient is similar to that derived from in-mine boreholes (Map 27), then mining operations beneath Gentry Ridge may encounter the regional aquifer in close proximity to the western terminus of the access tunnel.

As discussed previously, faults (and associated breccia zones) within and bounding Bear Canyon Graben are believed to function as significant conduits for ground-water movement. The applicant provides information about ground-water inflows that resulted from mine workings contact with the eastern boundary fault zone at the 10th West Section (8,180 feet) in the King IV Mine and 2nd Left (8,490 feet) and 2nd West Mains (8,780 feet) in the Star Point No. 1 Mine. Sustained high inflow has occurred at fault zone encounters in the King IV Mine, whereas inflows have diminished rapidly in the Star Point No. 1 Mine. A lateral borehole drilled approximately 400 feet into the Bear Canyon Graben from the 2nd Left Section in the Star Point No. 1 Mine experienced an initial flow of 150 gpm that eventually decreased to zero. These data suggest that the eastern boundary fault zone in the vicinity of active operations in the Star Point No. 1 Mine does not function as a significant conduit for ground water. However, towards the south along the western side of Hoag Ridge the eastern boundary fault zone conveys a significant amount of ground water and is considered to be the recharge source for three Huntington City wells located near the junction of Wild Cattle Hollow and Gentry Hollow (PAP, page 784-95).

The applicant infers that ground water is recharged along Hoag Ridge and infiltrates towards the southwest until encountering the gouge (impermeable) zone associated with the eastern boundary fault zone. Thereafter, ground water is conveyed adjacent to the gouge zone within permeable breccia and/or fracture zones.

Data are not available to demonstrate whether the western boundary fault zone or other faults internal to the Bear Canyon Graben transmit significant amounts of ground water. However, if the Gentry Ridge ground-water regime is similar to that postulated for Hoag Ridge, wherein ground water moves from areas of high to lower topographic relief, then access tunnel development may encounter significant inflow at the western boundary fault.

The applicant proposes to control "significant sustained inflows . . . encountered during the Graben Crossing . . . by use of a pressure grouted seal (PAP, p. 784.63)." Map 46 depicts cross-sectional diagrams of pressure-grouted injection holes for arched and rectangular tunnels.

Surface Water-(TM)

The applicant provides information about sediment pond discharges, disturbed area drainage plans and control, and general surface water quality information on pages 783-53 through 783-67, 784-62 through 784-88 and 784-116 through 784-130. Supplementary surface water data are given on Maps 26, 19, 31, 42, 43, 50 through 60, Tables 10 through 14, 75 through 82, and 84 through 88, and on Figures 10 through 18 and 21 through 37.

Seven sediment ponds and one treatment facility are used to treat disturbed area drainage at Plateau's mine. Ponds No. 2, No. 4, No. 6, No. 7 and No. 8 are certified by a registered professional engineer (Exhibit 31, PAP). A variance was granted by the regulatory authority following a stability analysis for sediment ponds No. 3 and No. 5, and treatment facility No. 1.

Compliance

Ground Water-(RVS)

The applicant has provided information about the use, occurrence and characteristics of ground-water resources within and adjacent to the permit area. Moreover, the extent and location of underground coal mining activities (past, present and future) have been identified and described.

Springs. Baseline and operational spring monitoring data have been superimposed over projected areas of mining to identify potential impacts to the ground-water resource. Although overburden

thickness in conjunction with extraction methods suggest minimal longwall-induced aquifer deformation, the applicant recognizes that the potential for impacts to spring recharge and discharge above mine workings and the productivity of the Huntington City wells cannot be totally precluded. The applicant proposes to conduct water monitoring at representative springs and the Huntington City wells to identify longwall-induced impacts.

Mine Inflow. Mine inflow rates have been quantified and a limited suite of water quality data indicates inflows and subsequent discharges to Mud Water Canyon exceed effluent limits. The applicant has submitted a request for approval to exceed effluent limits and commits to initiating remedial action on halting discharges as required by the Utah State Health Department (PAP, pages 817-2 and 817-3).

Graben Crossing. The applicant proposes to drive a tunnel across Bear Canyon Graben to access coal reserves in Lease U-13097. Piezometric data indicate that the regional aquifer will not be encountered within the graben, but will be intercepted during early development of Lease U-13097. Tunnel development will intersect the east and west boundary fault zones and three faults that occur within the graben. Available data suggests the tunnel will not encounter significant inflow at the eastern boundary fault zone. However, data are not available to determine whether the western boundary fault zone acts as significant ground-water conduit. The applicant commits to drilling a horizontal borehole through the western boundary fault zone to assess ground water resources and the need to initiate a pressure-grouting program (PAP, page 784-64a). Pressure-grouting will be initiated if inflow exceeds 50 gpm for longer than three months, and will continue until sustained inflow is decreased by 90 percent. If inflow exceeds 50 gpm, the operator commits to installing water seals at each end of the tunnel upon abandonment (PAP, page 784-63).

The applicant is in compliance with this section.

Surface Water-(TM)

All NPDES discharges have been made in compliance with the discharge permits except for sediment pond No. 8. Plateau studied the effluents and inflows to pond No. 8 for a one-year period after which a request for change of the limitation was made to State Health and E.P.A. based on the results of that year's data. The operator applied for a revised limit as of December, 1986, and upon receiving this permit will revise their current limit. They are currently operating under a 1-Ton, 1-Day dissolved solids limit until this permit application is reviewed and approved.

The applicant is in compliance with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.43 Hydrologic Balance: Diversions and Conveyances of Overland Flow, Shallow Ground Water Flow, and Ephemeral Streams-(TM)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The discussion of applicant's disturbed and undisturbed area drainage conveyance system, peak flow determination, and methodologies, sediment control, channel flow design, channel lining design, and culvert design, is given on pages 784-65 through 784-74 of the PAP.

Compliance

The applicant has met all the requirements regarding peak flow methodologies and determinations for diversions in regards to this regulation. The applicant has not supplied the necessary information to verify culvert sizing, inlet and outlet protection, riprap location, riprap type, and showing this information on maps.

The applicant will be in compliance with this section when the following stipulation is met.

Stipulation 817.43-(1)-(TM)

Plateau Mining Company shall submit by October 31, 1987, for inclusion in the PAP, flow, velocity, and sizing calculations, location maps, and inlet and outlet protection measures for all culverts in the disturbed area.

UMC 817.44 Hydrologic Balance: Stream Channel Diversions-(TM)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The applicant does not address reclamation of any channels in their current reclamation plan. No place in their current Permit Application Package summarizes or provides detailed plans for channel reclamation techniques or channel stabilization after reclamation.

The applicant has stated in their Initial Completeness Review response document that for a reclamation plan to be completed, it will require detailed investigations into channel reclamation techniques and channel stabilization.

Compliance

The current PAP as it exists was approved by Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement without a detailed channel reclamation plan. The applicant must bring the current PAP into compliance with current regulations.

The applicant has not supplied the necessary information to address channel reclamation concerns. The applicant will be in compliance with this section when the following stipulation is met

Stipulation 817.44-(1)-(TM)

Plateau Mining Company shall submit by October 31, 1987 for inclusion in the PAP, complete and adequate design, calculations, profiles, cross sections, and drawings to detail final reclamation and channel restoration measures which will be employed. This will include post mining drainage patterns, and water monitoring locations.

UMC 817.45-.47 Hydrologic Balance: Sedimentation Ponds-(TM)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

Seven sediment ponds and one treatment facility have been constructed in conjunction with the runoff control plan and as on-site water pollution control facilities. These structures have been designed to contain the 10-year 24-hour design storm runoff event from disturbed areas and to remove excess suspended sediments picked up from the disturbed areas. They are temporary in nature and will be removed upon completion of the mining operations. No past, present, or future mining has, or will be, conducted beneath any existing sediment pond. One mine water discharge is located in Mud Water Canyon.

The overall sediment control plan, including pond location, drainage area characteristics associated with each pond, and other required runoff facilities are illustrated in Map 42 and 43, Surface Water and Sedimentation Control Facilities, Maps A and B (page 784-118, PAP).

Design details for the one treatment facility is shown on Map 53. Sediment Pond design details for ponds 2 through 8 are illustrated on Maps 54 through 60. A stage capacity curve for Treatment Facility 1 is shown on Figure 28, Stage Capacity Curve for Treatment Facility No. 1. The stage capacity curves for the as-built ponds are presented on Figures 29 through 35, Stage Capacity Curve for Sediment Ponds 2 through 8.

Additional Design Details for Sediment Volume, Runoff Volume, Pond Detention, Spillway Capacity, Embankment Height and Width, Side Slopes, Anti-Seep Collars, Riprap Protection, and Compactions are discussed on page 784-119 through 784-128 of the PAP. The adequacy of these design parameters will be discussed in the Compliance section.

Compliance

The applicant adequately describes the standard engineering practices used to design, construct, and certify all treatment facilities at Plateau (p. 784-117 and 784-118). All of the sedimentation ponds have been approved by the Division. The eight sedimentation ponds are classified as Treatment Facility No. 1 and Sedimentation Pond Nos. 2 through 8. Sedimentation Pond No. 1 was officially designated as Treatment Facility No. 1 by a letter from Dianne R. Nielson to PMC on July 19, 1984. Additionally, variances were granted for Sedimentation Ponds #3 and #5 for 817.46(r) (design and inspection during construction under the supervision of a registered professional engineer). As-built survey information was submitted for Ponds #3 and #5 with a certified stability analysis. The Division granted variances for these two ponds in a letter dated December 7, 1984.

Sedimentation ponds #4, #6, and #7 were certified on November 16, 1981. Sedimentation Pond #2 was certified on August 19, 1986. Sedimentation Pond #8 was certified and approved with the Unit Train Loadout, May 2, 1985.

The sediment design parameters for Ponds 1 through 8 have been summarized in Table 85. The applicant has not stated the design cleanout elevations for any of their ponds. In the applicant's response to the Division's renewal review, the applicant stated that he will survey the ponds to determine if they have reached the 60 percent cleanout level, and then determine if cleanout is necessary. Therefore, the applicant will include on their quarterly pond inspection forms, the cleanout volume (ac. ft.) for each facility and an updated sediment volume (ac. ft.) based on a current survey of each facility. This will supply adequate documentation for inspection of these facilities to be carried out.

The applicant states that the riprap protection for all ponds and treatment facilities is currently in place in inlet channels, around spillway risers, and at spillway outlets. The applicant has chosen to postpone a response to the Division's request for the D-50 of the riprap, manning's n values, and the depth, width and length of protection for all pond inlets and outlets. The applicant states that this will require assembling data from past submittals and field work to verify inlet and outlet protection, riprap location, riprap type, and showing this information on maps.

The applicant will be in compliance when the following stipulations are met.

Stipulation 817.45-.47-(2)-(TM)

1. Plateau Mining Company shall submit by October 31, 1987, for inclusion in the PAP, detailed calculations, maps and drawings showing the nature and location of pond outlet and inlet protection measures presently installed with supporting calculations which demonstrate the adequacy of these measures.
2. Plateau Mining Company will include on their quarterly sediment pond inspection forms, the cleanout volume (Ac.Ft.) for each facility and an updated sediment volume (Ac.Ft.) based on a current survey of each pond and treatment facility.

UMC 817.48 Acid-Forming and Toxic-Forming Materials-(DD)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

Page 783-132 of the PAP states sufficient evidence is available to quantify that the coal refuse material is not acid or toxic-forming as defined in UMC 700.5, and therefore does not need to have four feet of buffer material applied prior to topsoiling. Given the available data, the applicant requests that the Division concur with this position.

The available data, Table 64 of the PAP, gives chemical and physical analysis of the Coal Refuse. A series of test plots were also initiated on the Coal Refuse to determine adequate topsoil depths for reclamation. Sampling results from the test plots are submitted annually in the applicant's annual report.

Compliance

At this time it is premature for the Division to agree with the applicant's position that the coal refuse is non-acid or toxic-forming.

Sample locations of the coal refuse in Table 64 of the PAP were not located on a map of the coal refuse, and explained if the samples are depth increments or individual surface samples across the refuse pile.

Although most parameters appear to be within acceptable limits, Ec values are saline for samples WP2 middle, B-2, B-3, and VHA. Samples 12058 and 12059 are above suspect concentration for

selenium. Procedures used to analyze refuse and soil parameters need to be submitted to determine if values are total concentrations or plant available concentrations.

The test plot study must be completed and the refuse must be sampled in a representative fashion to determine the presence of acid or toxic-forming materials.

The applicant is currently developing an operational plan to address the presence of acid or toxic-forming materials in each stratum of overburden to be removed, including the stratum immediately above and below each coal seam to be mined and materials presently in the refuse pile. The plan shall include a discussion of the potential for, and mitigation of, water quality impacts and revegetation problems attendant to the refuse pile. This plan shall be submitted by September 15, 1987. After submittal, the plan will be reviewed for completeness by the Division.

The applicant will be in compliance with this section when Stipulation 817.71-.74 is met.

Stipulations

(See UMC 817.71-.74)

UMC 817.49 Temporary and Permanent Impoundments-(PGL)

Applicant's Proposal

Treatment Facility #1 and Sediment Ponds #2 through #8 are the only impoundments on the permit area. Page 784-129 states that temporary impoundments will be reclaimed upon completion of mining. Page 784-145 notes ponds may be permanently retained for wildlife use. All impoundments are less than 20 acre feet.

Compliance

Since the applicant is potentially planning to retain some impoundments for the postmining land use, the application has not addressed this section. The applicant will be in compliance with this section when the following stipulation is met.

Stipulation 817.49-(1)-(PGL)

Prior to final reclamation, Plateau Mining Company must submit definite plans for the disposition of all of the impoundments. If the applicant retains any of the impoundments permanently, all of the criteria for permanent impoundments must be met according to UMC 817.49.

UMC 817.50 Hydrologic Balance: Underground Mine Entry and Access Discharge-(RVS)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

Rocks in the mine plan and adjacent area strike northwest and dip approximately three degrees to the southeast. Mine inflow is measured to be 134 gpm and is collected in two sump areas prior to dispersal throughout the mine and to surface discharge. Mine inflow is of marginal quality.

Portals are updip from the workings and located at elevations ranging from 8,600 to 8,400 feet. Lion Deck Portal is located at the lowest elevation. Portal seals incorporate two-inch diameter drain pipes to accommodate the flooding of workings and associated build-up of hydraulic head following mine closure.

Compliance

Portals were located and constructed to control gravity discharge from the mine. The mine currently experiences inflows of marginal water quality.

Following mine closure, workings will flood and unplanned discharges of marginal water quality may occur. The applicant commits to monitoring unplanned discharges after mining for compliance with UMC 817.42 and other applicable state and federal regulations. Monitoring will be conducted quarterly (as accessible) and treatment will be initiated, if necessary, during the period of discharge or until bond release (PAP, page 817-4).

The applicant is in compliance with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.52 Surface and Ground Water Monitoring-(RVS/TM)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

Baseline water quality samples will be analyzed for the parameters listed in Table 82, Baseline Low Flow Water Quality Analytical Schedule. Operational water quality samples will be analyzed for the parameters presented in Table 81, Operational Water Quality Analytical Schedule. Baseline and operational monitoring will be conducted at the monitoring stations identified on Map 26, Ground and Surface Water Monitoring Sections with Water Quality Data in accordance with the time schedule indicated in Table 80.

The parameter sampling frequency procedures and future sampling intent has been stated on pages 784-79 through 784-88 of the PAP.

On April 9, 1987, the Division met with Plateau Mining Company (PMC) to discuss a revised spring monitoring plan based on the information received to date. Based on that meeting, PMC proposes to drop from the plan as outlined in the 5-year permit renewal PAP and New Lands PAP the following springs: S17-2, S7-1, S11-1, 530, 85-26-1, 734 and 452. The following springs will be added to those sampled: 518, 429, 433, 443, and 444.

Springs 429, 433, 443, and 444 will be monitored for baseline starting this year, then dropped until mining commences in Lease U-13097. Spring 518 will be monitored on an operational basis starting this year.

Compliance

The Division has concurred with the applicant on their revision to the proposed monitoring schedule in the PAP. The Forest Service has reviewed these changes and discussed these changes with the Division in a June 2, 1987 meeting. They also concur with these changes except that they would like the applicant to continue monitoring Spring S11-1 through 1987 with at least one sample being collected at low flow. This request was based on the water rights associated with Little Park Creek and mining to the east of this spring. The Forest Service will assess the data collected from sampling Spring S11-1 at the end of this year to determine if they would like continued monitoring in 1988. USFS is also compiling a list of springs on their own this field season, and this winter will provide a comprehensive list of high resource value springs.

The applicant has proposed to drop certain parameters from their surface and ground water quality sampling program. The Division does not concur with elimination of the baseline parameters spelled out on pages 784-82 through 784-85 for baseline data collection. If at the end of one year's baseline data collection for new sites (four water quality samples including high and low flow), certain parameters (those mentioned on pages 784-82 through 784-85 of the PAP) are not found in significant concentrations, then the Division would consider approving an amendment to the plan for the the second year of baseline monitoring. The complete baseline parameter list will be sampled every fifth year for all sites.

The applicant will be responsible to keep the Division informed of mining sequence changes on a yearly basis so that spring monitoring sites can be revised according to mining sequence changes and adequate baseline data can be collected prior to any mining impacts being realized.

The applicant will be in compliance with this section when the following stipulation is met.

Stipulation 817.52-(2)-(TM)

1. Plateau Mining Company (PMC) shall upon permit approval, utilize the monitoring stations proposed in PMC's April 30, 1987 letter to the Division. Moreover, PMC shall monitor springs S11-1, 238, and 494 at least one time in 1987 during low flow conditions in accord with the approved monitoring plan.
2. By October 31, 1987, Plateau Mining Company shall update the PAP water monitoring plan including text and tables, to:
 - a. reflect the revised monitoring stations proposed in PMC's April 30, 1987 letter to the Division as well as to add springs 238 and 494 to the monitoring program.
 - b. reflect that all new source and existing baseline monitoring points for surface and groundwater monitoring shall be monitored in accord with the Division's baseline parameter list for a two year period.

UMC 817.53 Hydrologic Balance: Transfer of Wells-(RVS)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The applicant states that upon final reclamation, ground-water monitoring wells will be sealed from bottom to top (PAP, page 784-58) and exploration boreholes will be plugged following abandonment (PAP, page 784-57).

Compliance

The applicant indicates exploration boreholes and ground-water monitoring wells will not be transferred for further use as water wells.

The applicant is in compliance with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.57 Hydrologic Balance: Stream Buffer Zones--(KMM)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The permit area contains the headwaters of two small perennial streams - Miller and Tie Fork Creeks. The latter includes Gentry Hollow and Wild Cattle Hollow Forks. There is currently no mining or surface facilities within 100 feet of these streams. Aquatic resource studies (pages 783-115 to 123) indicate no degradation to water quality or quantity from the applicant's operations. Subsidence cracks are the only surface disturbances in the Miller Creek drainage area and these are limited to the ridge (page 783-121). Subsidence is not expected to impact Wild Cattle or Gentry Hollow (page 783-122).

Mine water discharge from the Mudwater Fan Breakout has changed Mudwater Creek to a perennial stream. The water discharge is subject to an NPDES permit and is monitored regularly to determine impacts on water quality (page 784-146).

The Corner Canyon Fan Breakout is the only facility in proximity to an intermittent channel. The breakout was constructed so as not to impact the stream and the site has been posted for a stream buffer area (page 784-147).

Compliance

Mining activity, except for the breakouts described above, has not and is not expected to disturb land within 100 feet of a perennial or intermittent stream. Continued spring and stream monitoring is conducted to document any changes in water quality or quantity which might necessitate mitigation. The applicant is committed to mitigate impacts to water quality or quantity that affect wildlife (page 784-145d).

The applicant is in compliance with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.59 Coal Recovery--(PGL)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The operator has committed to maximum coal recovery while using the best technology currently available and maintaining environmental integrity through underground coal mining activities. An approved Resource Recovery and Protection Plan is shown in Exhibit 39.

Compliance

The applicant's Resource Recovery and Protection Plan approved March 20, 1981 is valid.

The applicant is in compliance with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.61-.68 Explosives-(PGL)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

For surface blasting activities incident to underground coal mining in the Star Point Mines, the applicant will comply with all Federal and State laws in the use of explosives. Blasting will be conducted by certified blasters only. Records of surface blasts will be filed at the minesite for 3 years (PAP, page 817-17).

Compliance

The applicant commits to comply with all applicable State and Federal laws for surface blasting activities incident to underground coal mining.

The applicant is in compliance with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.71-.74 Disposal of Underground Development Waste and Excess Spoil and Non-Acid and Non-Toxic Forming Coal Processing-(PGL)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The applicant presently disposes of underground development waste and excess spoil in the coal processing waste pile which is located south and east of the preparation plant.

The mine development will proceed through a Graben crossing. The development waste from the graben crossing is proposed to be conveyed to the surface by the regular coal conveyor. Rock may be mixed with the mined coal and conveyed to the coal preparation plant where it will be removed during the coal washing. The waste rock will then be mixed with the regular coal refuse and deposited on the refuse pile (page 784-133).

Two other alternatives for the proposed development waste have been proposed. The waste may be conveyed by conveyor belts on on-shifts to the surface where it would be disposed directly on the refuse pile. The other alternative would be the creation of "gob" rooms underground for the waste rock disposal. (Approximately 45,000 cy of material are involved in this development.)

The "refuse pile" used for the waste rock disposal was designed by professional engineers (and is certified). Recent stability investigations by Chen and Associates verified the stability of the fill (Geotechnical investigation in Exhibit 38, dated December 5, 1986).

The fill is continually being placed and compacted. The lifts are 2 feet, and designed to ensure mass stability and prevent mass movement. The outslope of the fill is 2H:1V.

Compliance

The applicant has proposed three alternatives for the disposition of the development waste. The waste program must be specific and identify the provisions for disposal of acid or toxic forming materials.

The applicant will be in compliance when the following stipulation is met.

Stipulation 817.71-.74-(1)-(PGL/DD/RVS)

The Plateau Mining Company shall submit by October 31, 1987, for inclusion in the PAP, an operational plan for collection and analyses of each stratum of overburden to be removed, including the stratum immediately above and below each coal seam to be mined, graben crossing waste rock, and materials presently in the refuse pile, to identify potential acid or toxic-forming, or alkalinity producing materials. The plan shall include a discussion of the potential for, and mitigation of, water quality impacts and/or revegetation problems attendant to the refuse pile. Moreover, the operator shall submit the calculated volume of waste rock to be generated during the permit term.

UMC 817.81-.88 Coal Processing Waste Banks--(DD/PGL)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The refuse pile for the PMC preparation plant is located south and east of the plant site. Currently, the waste pile is in Phase II as described in Exhibit 33, Star Point Mines Refuse Pile Evaluations, Operation and Maintenance Plan. This plan contains a detailed operation and maintenance plan.

Page 784-17 outlines how the refuse pile will be operated including spreading the refuse in two foot lifts, compaction will achieve 90 percent of the maximum dry density, and side slopes will be constructed at a maximum 2H:1V. The refuse pile plan continues and commits to monitoring and maintenance procedures throughout the life of the mine (detailed on page 784).

Waste rock generated from the underground projects which is known to be non-acid or non-toxic is transported to the refuse pile. The estimated amount of waste rock is 45,000 cy (page 784-133), which at the present projections, would be 2.15 feet over the active portion of the refuse pile or one lift. When the coal processing waste pile is full or no longer needed, it will be reclaimed by covering with suitable material and revegetating the area with the approved seed mixture. There are a series of test plots constructed in the area to determine vegetation success with differing soil material at various depths.

Compliance

The applicant's operational and maintenance procedures are acceptable as described in the PAP. Recent stability investigations as of December 1986 have demonstrated stability. The reclamation of the site will depend upon the results of the series of test plots. Presently, however, the bond estimate consists of covering the area with four feet of topsoil unless successfully demonstrated otherwise with the series of test plots.

The applicant commits to "visual monitoring quarterly, for evidence of structural weakness, ponding or impounded water and general appearance" (page 784-16). This inspection will be conducted by a registered professional engineer or other person approved by the Division. All of the monitoring procedures are acceptable.

The applicant is in compliance with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.89 Disposal of Non-Coal Waste-(PGL)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

There are dumpsters and concrete containment areas located throughout the mine area where non-coal waste is collected. The non-coal waste is hauled to the Carbon County landfill (page 784-16).

Compliance

The applicant collects non-coal waste in a designated portion of the permit are and removes it to the approved Carbon County landfill.

The applicant is in compliance with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.91-.93 Coal Processing Waste: Dams and Embankments-(PGL)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The coal processing waste dams and embankments are not employed at the Star Point Mines. A thickener tank is utilized to settle out fines from the preparation plant process water.

Discharge from the thickener underflow treatment ponds is recycled back to the coal wash plant, and is not released back into natural stream courses. Therefore, these regulations are not applicable.

UMC 817.95 Air Resources Protection-(PGL)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The applicant outlines on page 784-153 that all surface operations including construction and reclamation operations are conducted utilizing dust control measures. Dust control approval orders have been received by the Utah State Department of Health for all facilities at PMC and are found in Exhibit 34.

Compliance

The applicant has approved dust control plans for all surface facilities at the mine. The applicant is in compliance with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.97 Protection of Fish, Wildlife and Related Environmental Values-(KMM)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

On pages 783-93 through 783-124, the operator describes the fish and wildlife resource of the permit area and affected adjacent areas. Information is based on literature, consultation with appropriate agencies, and field studies. Continuing studies include annual raptor surveys, and water quality and quantity monitoring which will identify potential problems.

Compliance

Much of the Star Point Mine's facilities were in existence before passage of SMCRA or Utah's Rules. Wildlife has adapted to some extent to the presence of the mine as evidenced by big game use of sediment ponds and wildlife sightings in the mine facilities area. The applicant has tried to minimize impacts on wildlife from existing facilities and to design new facilities to take wildlife into consideration, including raptor-proof power lines and conveyors constructed to allow deer crossing (pages 784-144 - 145a). The applicant has committed to notify the Division of threatened or endangered species and their habitats, of the use of pesticides and fires and to fence, cover or buffer hazard areas (page 784-145d).

Mitigation of impacts and enhancement of wildlife resources include employee education, deer winter range vegetation enhancement and a guzzler to compensate for the Unit Train Loadout and refuse expansion areas (page 784-145b), availability of sediment ponds for deer use and interim and final revegetation planned to maximize benefit to wildlife.

Final reclamation will include retention of sediment ponds and vegetation enhancement of them if appropriate for wildlife use (see discussion following page 784-145). Stream channel reconstruction will include riparian vegetation re-establishment where appropriate.

The applicant is in compliance with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.99 Slides and Other Damage-(PGL)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The applicant commits on page 817-19, that "at any time a slide occurs which may have a potentially adverse affect on public property, health, safety, or the environment, Plateau Mining Company

will notify the Division by the fastest available means and will comply with remedial measures that are required by the Division's standard safety and construction procedures".

Compliance

The applicant commits to notify the Division if a slide occurs and comply with standard and acceptable measures required by the Division. The applicant is in compliance with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.100 Contemporaneous Reclamation-(KMM)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The applicant has committed to reseed as contemporaneously as possible with regrading (page 784-49). Map 34, Disturbed Area Vegetation, indicates areas disturbed prior to August 3, 1977 and current disturbance. Areas of interim revegetation and final reclamation are also indicated.

Compliance

The applicant has either performed or committed to timely interim reclamation or final reclamation on all areas not currently used for mine facilities.

The applicant is in compliance with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.101 Backfilling and Grading-(PGL)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The proposed final surface contour plan provides a variety of topographic features enhancing the postmining land use.

Backfilling operations, utilizing equipment such as rubber-tired scrapers, front-end loaders, and dump trucks will be undertaken in the portal, sedimentation pond, and stope hole areas. Holes or depressions will be filled when the mining operation is concluded. After the portals are sealed they will be backfilled (page 784-25).

Highwalls will be reduced by dragging a portion of the fill material from the outslope of the operation benches to the toe of the highwall. Roads will be reclaimed by pulling fill back up from the downslope and placing it in the cuts. Natural drainages will be re-established and erosion protection across the fill provided.

Some highwalls will be retained. The post-mining topography is graphically represented on Map 47 - "Post Disturbance Topography" and "Reclamation Cross Sections" on Map 49.

Compliance

The applicant described how the disturbed areas will be backfilled. The backfilling plan outlined on Map 47 where highwalls will be retained, but did not demonstrate how highwall retention criteria was met. The backfilling and grading did not demonstrate how a minimum static safety factor of 1.3 would be achieved.

The applicant will be in compliance when the following stipulation is met.

Stipulation 817.101-(1)-(PGL)

Plateau Mining Company shall submit by September 1, 1987, for inclusion in the PAP, cross sections, calculations, and plans to demonstrate that backfilled areas will meet the minimum static safety factor of 1.3. This shall include justification for retention of highwalls, and four more cross sections of the final configuration proposed for the coal refuse pile.

UMC 817.106 Regrading of Stabilizing Rills and Gullies-(PGL)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The applicant commits on page 817-20 that when rills or gullies deeper than 9" form in areas that have been regraded and topsoiled, the rills and gullies will be filled, graded, or otherwise stabilized.

Compliance

The applicant's commitment to fill, grade, or stabilize rills and gullies deeper than 9" in topsoiled or regraded areas meets the requirements of UMC 817.106.

The applicant is in compliance with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.111 Revegetation: General-(KMM)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

Following completion of topsoiling and seedbed preparation, areas will be seeded with appropriate mixes (Map 73, Tables 70-79 and 93). Slopes accessible to a seed drill will be either drill seeded or dragged with a harrow or chain to adequately cover the seed (page 784-51). Areas too steep for a drill will either be broadcast or hydroseeded depending on accessibility. Seeding rates are provided in Tables 70-79 and 93. Seeding rates range from 52-87 PLS per square foot for drill seeding and 90-174 PLS for broadcast seeding (page 784-41).

Compliance

Seeding mixes and seeding rates have been calculated for prompt revegetation compatible with the designated post mining land uses. Tree and shrub seeding and planting rates and distribution have been designed to meet the woody density standards. PMC has also made the commitment to use grazing management to increase shrub densities if necessary. Grazing management is acceptable if it will result in meeting the success standard. Since bond release is dependent on meeting the success standard, proposed use of these revegetation and management techniques meet the requirements of UMC 817.111.

The applicant is in compliance with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.112 Use of Introduced Species-(KMM)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The applicant proposes use of small amounts of several introduced species in the seed mixes including Smooth brome, Timothy, Intermediate wheatgrass, Kentucky bluegrass, Alfalfa, Meadow foxtail, Yellow sweetclover, Regar meadow brome, Small burnet, Tall wheatgrass, Pubescent wheatgrass and Orchard grass (see Tables 70-73 and 75-79). The topsoil stockpile interim seed mix (Table 74) is predominantly introduced species.

Compliance

The applicant has provided a species by species and area by area justification for use of introduced species in permanent reclamation mixes. Various species are justified for their adaptability, forage quality, ease of establishment, value as a

nurse crop, nitrogen fixing ability and other soil building attributes. Small quantities of these species will not have a competitive advantage over natives and will add diversity to the permanent reclamation areas.

The principal justification for use of introduced species on the existing topsoil stockpile is their ability to "promote long term viability of the biological activity of the stockpiled soil material" based on rooting depth and overall root biomass.

The applicant has provided an extensive literature review to support their use of introduced species at the Star Point Mine. The applicant is in compliance with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.113 Revegetation: Timing-(KMM)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

Following completion of topsoiling and seed bed preparation, seeding will be done in either spring or fall. The fall period may extend throughout the winter if soil is not frozen (page 784-48).

Compliance

Spring, if the site is accessible, and fall are normal periods for favorable planting conditions. If seeding is done in either period, the applicant will meet the requirements of UMC 817.133.

The applicant is in compliance with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.114 Revegetation: Mulching-(KMM)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The applicant proposes to mulch only on areas that are not drill seeded, harrowed or chain dragged to adequately cover seed (page 784-51). On areas too steep for the above treatments, an organic mulch (2000 lb/acre) or planted annual crop (20 lb/acre) will be used as mulch. Regrading to leave a roughened surface and pits, depressions and contour furrows will also aid in water retention and erosion control.

Compliance

The applicant performed two studies to evaluate various mulch treatments. While there were implementation problems associated with both studies, the information presented in conjunction with the literature review of mulching (Exhibit 40) is adequate to justify not mulching on relatively flat areas where seed is adequately covered. The Division may require mulch on a case by case basis if problem areas are evident, or if revegetation projects completed over the next permit terms indicate problems. Incorporation of organic mulch into the surface soil may also be required on a case by case basis if soil analyses indicate that organic matter would be beneficial.

The applicant is in compliance with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.116 Revegetation: Standards for Success-(KMM)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

Reference areas have been established for all of the disturbed vegetation types (Map 34 and 36). Reference areas will be used for most cover and production standards. A woody density standard of 2200 plants per acre on east and north facing slopes and 900 plants per acre for south and west facing slopes has been negotiated for most reclamation sites. The applicant provides a history of permitting actions which led to establishment of this standard (see deficiency response document (January 5, 1987, p. 34-41). Map 73 specifies the reference area or other success criteria to be used at each reclaimed area.

For cover and productivity the 80/10 standard will be used for all shrublands (most types) and the 90/10 standard for herbaceous types (Mountain Grassland and Grass-Sagebrush) (page 784-54). Sampling techniques will be similar to those used over the last several years (10 point frames for cover and belt transects for density [page 783-77A and 784-53]).

Compliance

Cover and productivity are the basic parameters which must be measured for revegetation success. Shrub density must be considered for areas developed for fish and wildlife management. PMC proposes to measure all three parameters at the required statistical levels.

The applicant is in compliance with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.121-.126 Subsidence Control-(RVS)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The applicant provides information about subsidence on pages 784-134 through 784-143. Supplementary subsidence information is given on Maps 5, 6, 61, 62 and in Table 89.

Mining will occur in the Hiawatha seam, Third seam and Wattis seam. Coal extraction will occur by longwall methods in the Wattis and Third seams and by continuous room and pillar methods in the Hiawatha seam (PAP, page 784-3). Multiple seam mining will primarily occur beneath the northern portion of Hoag Ridge (Section 12, T15S, R7E). The operator estimates that maximum subsidence will be 70 percent of extraction height (PAP page 784-136). Accordingly, in Section 12 where three seams are projected to be mined (total thickness of approximately 20 feet) cumulative maximum subsidence is anticipated to be less than 14 feet. Maximum subsidence beneath Gentry Ridge, where the Wattis seam is projected to be mined, will be less than 5 feet.

Overburden thicknesses range from 700 to 1500 feet in the northern portion of Hoag Ridge (includes Section 12) and 1000 to 1700 feet in the Gentry Ridge area. The operator gives a value of 22 1/2 degrees for the angle-of-draw within and adjacent to the permit area (PAP, 784-136). Map 61 locates subsidence-induced tension cracks that have developed over previously mined areas above Star Point.

The applicant identifies renewable resource lands above areas of current and projected mining. The applicant concludes, on the basis of mining methods, stratigraphy and overburden thickness that surface manifestations of subsidence (tension cracking, catastrophic failure) and impacts to renewable resource lands (springs, livestock grazing) will be minimal. However, where subsidence causes tension cracks that are hazardous to livestock or wildlife, the applicant commits to restoring the land surface. Where tension cracks preclude grazing or result in injured or killed livestock, the applicant commits to compensating owners at fair market value for losses. Ground-water resources (springs) that are materially damaged by mining-induced subsidence will be rehabilitated or mitigated (PAP, pages 817-22 and 817-23).

The operator identifies three structures (powerline, cabin, TV towers) that occur above areas that were mined prior to 1977 (Map 1, Sheet 2) and therefore, are considered to be located above areas that have stabilized. The operator does not anticipate subsidence-induced damage to these structures and does not propose specific mitigation plans.

The operator proposes to monitor vertical and horizontal ground movement by photogrammetric methods, surveying of monuments and visual observations during surface traverses. Photogrammetry will be the primary method for quantifying ground movement. Surface monument surveys will be utilized to determine the resolution of photogrammetric methods. Maps 61, 61A, and 61C show the subsidence monitoring points above longwall panels. Maximum measured subsidence, to date, is two feet (Map 61). The operator commits to conducting an annual field survey (surface traverse) and indicates that monument surveying will be conducted on an irregular basis and eventually phased out (PAP, p. 784-141). Results of surveys will be submitted to the Division on an annual basis (PAP, page 784-142). Surface owners will be notified of the mining schedule according to UMC 817.122.

Compliance

The applicant has provided information about mining methods and locations, overburden thickness and lithology, vertical movement, renewable resource lands and structures.

Maximum subsidence of up to 14 feet is projected for areas of Hoag Ridge where approximately eight springs occur. In addition, approximately 30 springs occur above portions of Gentry Ridge where maximum subsidence is projected to be less than five feet. The applicant cannot exclude the possibility of subsidence-induced material damage that results in the reduction of reasonably foreseeable use of surface lands and has provided commitments to restore surface lands and compensate owners in compliance with 817.124.

The applicant has identified structures above previously mined areas that have experienced vertical movement and are currently stable.

The applicant has provided a subsidence monitoring plan that describes schedules for collecting and submitting quantitative data as required by 817.121 and notifying surface owners according to 817.122.

The applicant is in compliance with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.131 Cessation of Operations: Temporary-(PGL)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The applicant commits to the requirements of 817.131 on page 817-24.

Compliance

The applicant commits to effectively support and maintain all surface access openings to underground operations, and secure surface facilities in areas in which there are no current operations, but operations are to be resumed under an approved permit, even if temporary abandonment occurs.

The applicant will submit to the Division a notice of intention to cease or abandon operations if temporary cessation extends beyond 30 days, with all necessary information outlined in UMC 817.131.

The applicant is in compliance with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.133 Postmining Land Use-(KMM)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The applicant describes pre-mining land use on pages 783-134 to 140. These include recreation, wildlife habitat, grazing, forestry and mining.

Compliance

The reclamation plan is consistent with these same uses (page 784-111), including enhancement of vegetation for wildlife, leaving sediment ponds for wildlife use and leaving the Lion Deck Portal road for recreation and other uses (see page 817.150-170.).

The applicant is in compliance with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.150-.176 Roads-(PGL)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

On page 784-10, the applicant describes the silo access road and transfer tower access road. These roads are single lane, 15 feet wide, with a gravel surface.

The silo access road is 3,700 feet with a uniform grade of 0.75 percent. The transfer tower road is 1,000 feet long with an overall grade of 7.4 percent.

Compliance

The applicant did not adequately describe with descriptions, maps, and cross-sections, the configuration and reclamation of all the roads on the Star Point Mines permit area.

The applicant will be in compliance when the following stipulation is met.

Stipulation 817.150-.176-(1)-(PGL)

Plateau Mining Company shall submit by October 31, 1987, for inclusion into the PAP, detailed descriptions and specifications for each road within the permit area to include: maintenance and reclamation details, maps showing location, and cross sections of each road in the permit area.

UMC 817.180 Other Transportation Facilities-(PGL)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The conveyor, railroad siding, and unit train loadout were designed and constructed and are maintained to prevent damage to environmental values. The maintenance of the facilities is outlined on page 784-15 of the PAP.

Compliance

The transportation facilities were designed and constructed, and are maintained to prevent damage to fish, wildlife, and related environmental values and minimize the degradation of water quality, minimize erosion and siltation, and pollution. The facilities will be removed in an environmentally sound manner.

The applicant is in compliance with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.181 Support Facilities and Utility Installations--(PGL)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The mine buildings, coal storage, sheds, shop and coal preparation were designed and constructed and are maintained as outlined on page 784-15 to prevent damage to environmental values.

Compliance

The applicant has designed and constructed and will maintain and remove, the support facilities in an environmentally sound manner.

The applicant is in compliance with this section.

Stipulations

None.

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Appendix B - Public Involvement

United States
Department of
Agriculture

) Forest
Service

Manti-LaSal
National Forest

Price Ranger District
) 599 West Price River Dr.
Price, Utah 84501

~~Rep. 3-26-89~~

Date: March 29, 1989

ADDRESS TO BE MERGED USING
A MAILING LIST SET UP AS
A MERGE DOCUMENT _ MERGE DOCUMENT
WILL BE A LIST OF INTERESTED PUBLICS
FOR THE CVR PROPOSED LEASE TRACT

The Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service will be evaluating an application by Cypress-Plateau Mining Corporation to lease Federal lands in Carbon and Emery Counties for coal development. The proposed lease tract, known as the Castle Valley Ridge Tract, lies adjacent to the north and west boundaries of Cypress-Plateau's existing Starpoint Mines Permit Area, as shown on the enclosed map. Cypress-Plateau's application states that they intend to mine the proposed lease using existing portal facilities associated with the Starpoint Mines.

The application will be processed under the Lease By Application procedure recently adopted by the Uinta-Southwestern Utah Coal Region. The proposed tract encompasses 1987.46 acres of Federal coal lands. The surface of the lease area is under Federal management administered by the USDA Forest Service, Manti-LaSal National Forest.

The subject lands have been determined to be suitable for further consideration for coal leasing under existing Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service Land Use Plans. The Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service will jointly evaluate the tract on a site-specific basis for leasing in accordance with the requirements of Federal Regulations 43 CFR 3400 and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). If offered for lease, the tract will be leased on a competitive basis.

Further information can be obtained at the Bureau of Land Management, Moab District Office in Moab, Utah, and the Manti-LaSal National Forest Supervisor's Office in Price, Utah.

Public comments will be accepted at the Manti-LaSal National Forest, Supervisor's Office, 599 West Price River Drive, Price, Utah 84501, until April 18, 1989.

Sincerely,

/s/ Ira W. Hatch

IRA W. HATCH
District Ranger

Enclosures
WNewak:tm

m01nSoutheastern Utah Assoc) of Local Governments

ATTN: Bill Howell
P.O. Drawer 1106
Price, Utah 84501-0881

m02nBill:

m01nEmery County Commissioners
Emery County Courthouse
Castle Dale, Utah 84513

m02nSir:

m01nCarbon County Commissioners
Courthouse Building
Price, Utah 84501

m02nSir:

m01nDiv. of Wildlife Resources
ATTN: Larry Dalton
455 W. Railroad Ave.
Price, Utah 84501

m02nLarry:

m01nUtah Wilderness Association
Attn: Dick Carter
455 East 400 South, #306
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

m02nDick:

m01nKay Jensen

Cleveland, Utah 84518

m02nKay:

m01nLee Lemmon
Box 1183
Huntington, Utah 84528

m02nLee:

m01nPrice Municipal Corp.
Attn: Art Lee Martinez, Mayor
P.O. Box 893
Price, Utah 84501

m02nArt:

m01nSlickrock Country Council
ATTN: Brent Griggs
Rt. 1, Box 144H
Price, Utah 84501

m02nBrent:

m01nDivision of Oil Gas & Mining
Attn: Ron Daniels
355 W. North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

m02nRon:

m01nU.S. Fish & Wildlife Services
Attn: Robert Ruesink-State Supervisor
1745 W. 1700 S.

Salt Lake City, Utah 84104 5110
m02nRobert:

m01nHuntington Cleveland Irrigation
Attn: Varden Wilson
Box 327
Huntington, Utah 84528
Varden

m01nPrice River Water Improvement Dist.
265 Fairgrounds Road
Price, Utah 84501
m02nSir:

m01nUtah State Division of Water Rights
Attn: Mark Page
P.O. Box 718
Price, Utah 84501
m02nMark:

m01nOffice of Surface Mining
Attn: Floyd McMullen
1020 15th Street
Denver, Colorado 80202
m02nFloyd:



NEWS RELEASE

MANTI-LASAL NATIONAL FOREST

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT WALTER NOWAK OR IRA HATCH, PRICE RANGER DISTRICT, MANTI-LASAL NATIONAL FOREST, 599 W. PRICE RIVER DRIVE, PRICE, UTAH 84501 (801) 637-2817

MARCH 29, 1989

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE BY APRIL 4, 1989

Forest Supervisor
599 West Price River Drive
Price, UT 84501
(801) 637-2817

Sanpete District Ranger
150 South Main Street
Ephraim, UT 84627
(801) 283-4151

Ferron District Ranger
50 South State Street
Ferron, UT 84523
(801) 384-2372

Price District Ranger
1 West Price River Drive
Price, UT 84501
(801) 637-2817

Moab District Ranger
125 West 200 South Street
Moab, UT 84532
(801) 259-7155

Monticello District Ranger
496 East Central Street
Monticello, UT 84535
(801) 587-2041

The Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service will be evaluating an application by Cypress-Plateau Mining Corporation to lease Federal lands in Carbon and Emery Counties for coal development. The proposed coal lease tract, known as the Castle Valley Ridge ^{TRACT}, lies just north of and adjacent to Cypress-Plateau Mining Corporation's existing Starpoint Mines Permit Area and about 17 miles due west of Price, along the boundary between Carbon and Emery Counties.

According to George Morris, Forest Supervisor of the Manti-LaSal National Forest, the application will be processed under the Lease By Application procedure recently adopted by the Uinta-Southwestern Utah Coal Region. The proposed tract encompasses 1987.46 acres of Federal coal lands. The surface of the involved lands are under management by the USDA Forest Service, Manti-LaSal National Forest.

The subject lands have been determined to be suitable for further consideration for coal leasing under existing Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service Land Use Plans. The Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service will jointly evaluate the tract for leasing. For further information,





NEWS RELEASE

MANTI-LASAL NATIONAL FOREST

contact the BLM Moab District Office in Moab, Utah or the Manti-LaSal National Forest Supervisor's Office in Price, Utah.

Public comments will be accepted at the Manti-LaSal National Forest Supervisor's Office, 599 West Price River Drive, Price, Utah 84501, until April 18, 1989.

FOR PUBLICATION IN: SUN ADVOCATE AND EMERY COUNTY PROGRESS

Forest Supervisor
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APPENDICES

- A. Tract Delineation Review Report
- B. Public Involvement Documents
- C. Special Lease Stipulations

Appendix A - Tract Delineation Review Report

UINTA-SOUTHWESTERN UTAH COAL REGION
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

TRACT DELINEATION REVIEW REPORT

Leasing by Application - U-64263
- Cyprus-Plateau Mining Corporation

I. APPLICATION DATA

Date Filed: July 7, 1988

Legal Description:

T. 14 S., R. 7 E.,
sec. 34, lots 3 and 4, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$;
161.63 acres.

T. 15 S., R. 7 E.,
sec. 2, lots 2-7, and 10-12, SW $\frac{1}{2}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$;
sec. 3, lots 1, 2, and 7-10, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$;
sec. 10, E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{2}$;
sec. 11, W $\frac{1}{2}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$;
sec. 14, NW $\frac{1}{2}$, NW $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{2}$;
sec. 15, E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{2}$;
1,825.83 acres.

Acreage: 1,987.46 acres

Surface Ownership
All Federal

Surface Administration
Manti-LaSal National Forest - 100%

Preliminary Coal Resource Information

Minable Seams - Wattis
In-place Coal Reserve Base - 24,100,000 tons
Minable Reserve Base - 15,300,000 tons
Recoverable Reserves - 8,900,000 tons
An additional 3.1 million tons have been identified for the
Hiawatha bed and 5.7 million tons for the Third bed. Neither bed
is considered minable at present.

II. ANALYSIS FOR ENHANCING COMPETITION

A. Tract Configuration

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

CYPRUS-PLATEAU MINING CORPORATION COAL LEASE APPLICATION UTU-64263
CASTLE VALLEY RIDGE TRACT
1989

USDA, FOREST SERVICE, MANTI-LASAL NATIONAL FOREST
USDI, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, MOAB DISTRICT
CARBON AND EMERY COUNTIES, UTAH

Responsible Officials:

J.S. Tixier, Regional Forester
USDA, Forest Service
Intermountain Region
Federal Building
324 25th Street
Ogden, Utah 84401

James M. Parker, State Director
USDI, Bureau of Land Management
Utah State Office
324 South State, Suite 301
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111-2303

For Further Information Contact:

George A. Morris, Forest Supervisor
USDA - Forest Service
Manti-LaSal National Forest
599 West Price River Dr.
Price, Utah 84501

Gene Nodine, District Manager
USDI, Bureau of Land Management
Moab District
P.O. Box 970
Moab, Utah 84532

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

I. INTRODUCTION..... 1

 A. Purpose and Need for Action..... 1

 B. Authorizing Actions..... 1

 C. History, Tract Delineation and Potential Mining Scenario..... 1

 Map 1..... 3

 Map 2..... 4

 D. Public Issues, Management Concerns and Opportunities..... 5

 1. Public Issues and Management Concerns..... 5

 2. Opportunities..... 6

 E. Negative Declaration..... 6

II. ALTERNATIVES..... 6

 A. Alternative One - No Action..... 6

 B. Alternative Two - Offer the Tract for Leasing with Application... 6

 of Management Requirements

III. AFFECTED/EXISTING ENVIRONMENT..... 7

 A. Topography/Physiography/Geology..... 7

 B. Hydrology and Climate..... 8

 C. Soils..... 10

 D. Range and Wildlife..... 11

 E. Vegetation..... 11

 F. Recreation and Visual Resources..... 12

 G. Socioeconomics..... 12

IV. EFFECTS OF IMPLEMENTATION..... 13

 A. Alternative One - No Action..... 13

 B. Alternative Two - Offer the Tract for Leasing with Application... 13

 of Management Requirements

 1. Short-term and Residual Impacts..... 13

 2. Short-term Use vs. Long-term Productivity..... 15

 3. Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources..... 16

 4. Cumulative Impacts..... 16

V. PERSONNEL AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT..... 17

 A. Interdisciplinary Team..... 17

 B. Other Organizational and Public Involvement..... 17

VI. SELECTED TIERING AND REFERENCE DOCUMENTS..... 17

APPENDICES

1. Comparison with Prior Delineated Tracts.

The tract applied for is reduced somewhat from a parcel delineated in 1982, by the Minerals Management Service as the "Castle Valley Ridge Tract" for Round II regional coal lease consideration. The original configuration was based on: expressions of interest, land use planning considerations, available coal data, access considerations to the tract, and the extent of unleased coal. Subsequent drilling on the northern part of the original tract indicates that the Wattis seam thins and splits to the north and contains no minable reserves. Based on this information, the applicant has only applied for the southern half of the original tract. To cover the uncertainty as to where the Wattis seam becomes unminable, the Tract Delineation Team recommends adding an additional 161.63 acres to the applicant's tract.

2. Size Consideration

The tract under application is relatively small with limited reserves that are likely to be accessible only from mine workings planned for Federal leases south of the tract. With the limited potential reserves of unleased coal in the area and the limited number of economic access points to the reserve, it does not appear that there are sufficient potential reserves in the area to support an independent mining operation.

3. Industry Interest

The tract was originally delineated in 1982, in response to an expression of interest submitted by Getty Mineral Resources Co. Getty and their successor in interest, Cyprus-Plateau Mining Corp. have conducted exploration drilling and geophysical surveys on the property. The applicant appears to be the only existing operation to have interest in the area with reasonable access to the tract.

4. Planning/Environmental Considerations

The land on the tract has been determined to be suitable for further consideration for coal leasing by the Manti-LaSal National Forest (FLRMP, 11/86).

5. Captive/Bypass Situation

Due to the limited access because of faulting, the tract under application may be considered a captive or bypass situation. However, the tract configuration does not create a new captive or bypass situation for other unleased coal.

B. Ownership Pattern/Control

1. Surface/Minerals

The surface and minerals on the tract are all controlled by the Federal Government with the surface administered by the US Forest Service. Existing coal holdings adjoining the tract include the Cyprus-Plateau Mining Corp. property to the south and east of the tract which include the workings of the Star Point Mine.

2. Access

The tract under application has been determined to have potential economic access only from mine workings projected on the applicant's leases south of the tract.

3. Extent of Unleased Coal

The potentially minable reserves in the Castle Valley Ridge Tract occur in a narrow fault block known as the Gentry Ridge Horst. This block is bounded on the east by the Bear Canyon Graben and on the west by the Pleasant Valley Graben. The Gentry Mountain Horst terminates to the north of the tract where the Bear Canyon and Pleasant Valley Graben systems appear to merge. The tract reserves are also stratigraphically limited to the north due to splitting and thinning of the Wattis seam.

C. Marketability

The minable seam in the tract has high-volatile B bituminous rank coal with a high heating value (12,100-12,450 Btu/lb) and low sulfur content (0.4-0.6%). The coal quality appears to be no different from coal presently being produced in the area.

III. CONCLUSION

The tract as applied for includes the bulk of potentially minable coal in the area. However, some additional lands may have mining potential and should be added to help eliminate a possible bypass situation or need for an additional application. The Castle Valley Ridge tract has limited competitive interest for the following reasons: (1) The tract reserves are relatively limited with less than 9 million tons of recoverable reserve; (2) Access to the coal other than through the existing operation does not appear feasible; (3) Interest in the tract in recent years has been limited to one company.

The tract is important to the applicant because it will increase reserves to the operation by 35%, reduce capital investment per ton for the mine by 27%, and provide for greater productivity for the mine life.

Tract Delineation Team

Date

James F. Kohler
James F. Kohler, Geologist
BLM, Utah State Office

Jan. 24, 1989

Terry McParland
Terry McParland, Geologist
BLM, Moab District Office

Jan 27, 1989

Shannon Hoefler
Shannon Hoefler, Mining Engineer
BLM, Moab District Office

January 27, 1989

Max Nielson
Max Nielson, Economist
BLM, Utah State Office

Jan 24, 1989

Walter E. Novak
Walter Novak, Geologist
Manti-LaSal National Forest

FEB. 1, 1989

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose and Need for Action

On July 7, 1988, Cyprus-Plateau Mining Corporation submitted Coal Lease Application UTU-64263 to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Utah State Office. Cyprus-Plateau has indicated a need for the coal in their application to acquire a much needed recoverable reserve base; to be more competitive in marketing coal; to extend mine life so as to more favorably amortize the cost of equipment, portal facilities, and underground development; reduce production costs;..."and to maintain 42 additional employees for 17 years..."

Pursuant to 43 CFR 3425.3 an environmental assessment (EA) must be prepared in order for the BLM, who has jurisdiction over the coal resources, to process the application. The proposed lease tract, known as the Castle Valley Ridge (CVR) Tract, encompasses Federal lands within the Manti-LaSal National Forest, Price Ranger District. Since this proposed tract contains Federal minerals administered by the BLM and lands administered by the Forest Service (FS), an environmental analysis was conducted jointly between the two agencies. This EA will evaluate the proposed tract pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act process and Coal Lease Unsuitability Criteria (43 CFR 3461) and will develop management requirements needed to mitigate impacts.

B. Authorizing Actions

This coal lease application was submitted and will be processed and evaluated under the following authorities: Minerals Leasing Act of 1920, as amended; National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA); Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960; Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976; National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976; Federal Coal Leasing Amendments Act (FCLAA) of 1976, as amended; Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) of 1977; Federal Regulations 43 CFR 3400 and the Manti-LaSal National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) of 1986.

The lease application will be processed under the procedures set forth under Federal regulations 43 CFR 3425, Leasing on Application.

C. History, Tract Delineation and Potential Mining Scenario

The current lands defined in the tract being evaluated were originally nominated by Plateau Mining Company (PMC) as "Tract No. 20" under the old Energy Minerals Allocation Recommendation System (EMARS) lease sale procedure. Additional acreage was added and in 1981, Getty Mining Company, who then owned PMC, proposed the Castle Valley Ridge Tract under a Call for Expression of Interest for the Round Two Coal-System Leasing Effort of the Uinta-Southwestern Utah Coal Region. The tract was evaluated in the Forest Service 1980 Situation

Statement, a Site Specific Analysis approved in 1982 and in the Uinta-Southwestern Utah Coal Region Round Two Final Environmental Impact Statement which was completed on October 7, 1983. The Round Two leasing effort evaluated 27 tracts in Utah and Colorado. The CVR Tract was one of 22 tracts recommended for competitive leasing under the preferred alternative (Alternative Two, High Level). Due to a re-evaluation and major changes in the Federal coal management program in 1984, the CVR tract was not offered for leasing.

In January of 1988, the Uinta-Southwestern Utah Coal Region was decertified and as a result, new coal leasing within the Region will be conducted under the Lease on Application Process set forth in Federal Regulations 43 CFR 3425. Coal Lease Application UTU-64263 was the second application submitted in the Region under this process since decertification of the Region.

Cyprus-Plateau Mining Corporation's (CPMC) 1988 application covered only the southern half of the CVR Tract evaluated in 1982. The Tract Delineation Team, consisting of personnel from the BLM and FS, evaluated the tract configuration as submitted in CPMC's 1988 application. Based on the uncertainty of existing geologic data, the team recommended in its Tract Delineation Review Report of February 1, 1989, that an additional 161.63 acres be added to UTU-64263 pursuant to 43 CFR 3425.1-9 (see Appendix A for report).

The tract under application as modified is legally described as:

T. 14 S., R. 7 E., SLM, Utah
Sec. 34, lots 3 and 4, N2SE4;

161.63 acres.

T. 15 S., R. 7 E., SLM, Utah
Sec. 2, lots 2-7, and 10-12, SW4, W2SE4;
Sec. 3, lots 1, 2, and 7-10, E2SE4, E2W2SE4;
Sec. 10, E2E2, E2NW4NE4;
Sec. 11, W2, W2E2;
Sec. 14, NW4, NW4NE4;
Sec. 15, E2E2NE4;

1,825.83 acres.

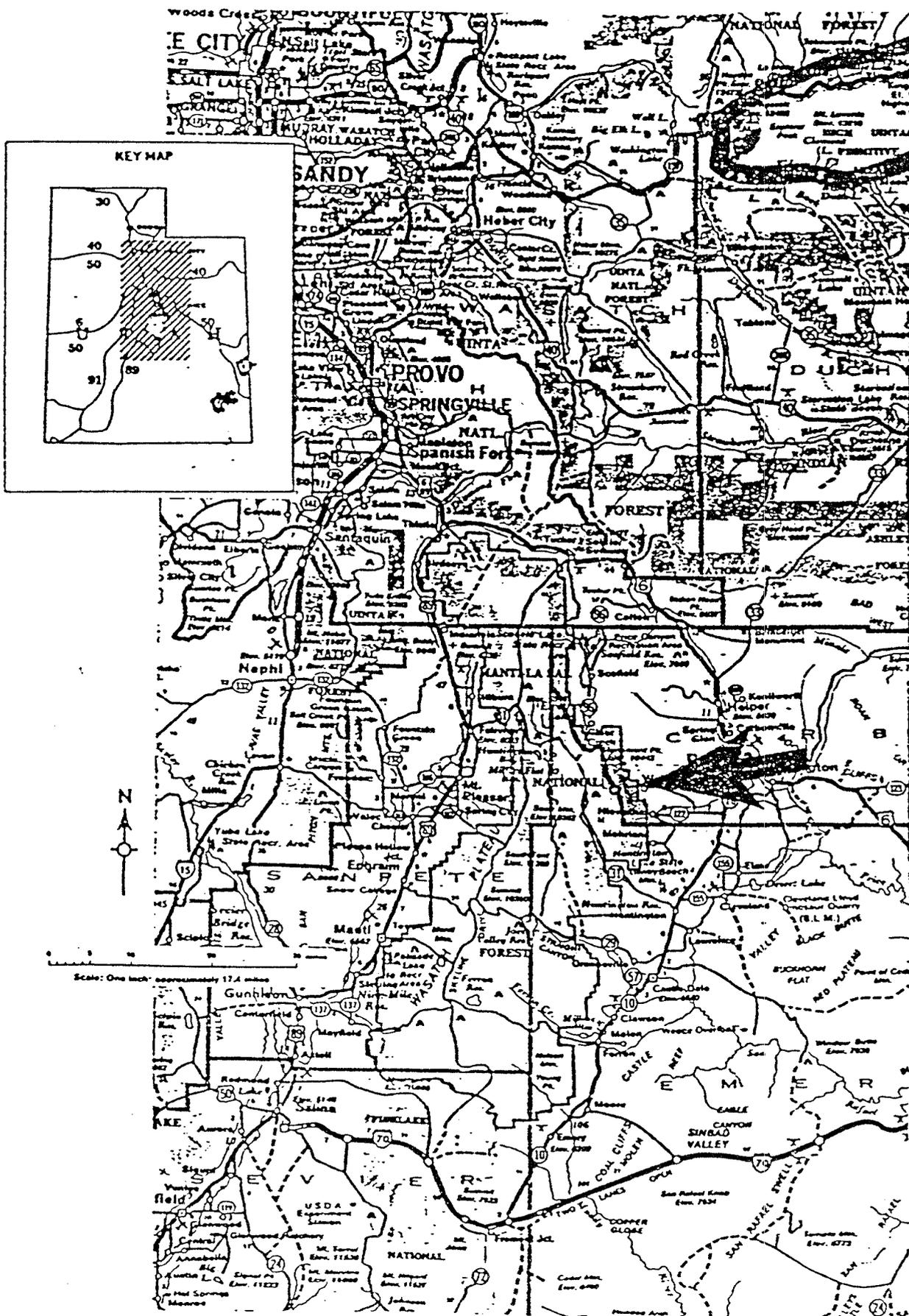
Total Acreage: 1,987.46 acres
Carbon and Emery Counties, Utah

For general location, please refer to Maps 1 and 2.

Pursuant to the Manti-LaSal National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (Forest Plan and FEIS), an initial analysis was conducted and it was determined that the tract is suitable for further consideration for coal leasing, subject to site-specific analysis and application of the coal lease unsuitability criteria.

GENERAL LOCATION OF PROJECT

UTU - 64263



It was also determined on 3/21/89, by the Forest Service, that there is sufficient information available to generally meet the Data Adequacy Standards for Federal Coal leasing adopted by the Uinta-Southwestern Utah Regional Coal Team and that it is consistent with the Manti-LaSal National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

The above information was provided to the Regional Coal Team and it was decided to proceed with further evaluation of the proposed tract as modified for leasing.

The Coal Lease Unsuitability Criteria (43 CFR 3461) have been applied to the tract and have been evaluated on a site-specific basis; no areas within the tract have been determined to be unsuitable for leasing.

The only existing coal lease holdings adjoining the tract include the applicant's leases in the Star Point Mine permit area which lies to the south and east of the tract. The Tract Delineation Team has determined that due to geologic conditions, the tract has potential economic access only from the existing mine workings in the applicant's leases to the south.

D. Public Issues, Management Concerns and Opportunities

General public comments were solicited by a news release, while specific public comments were solicited by letter dated 3/29/89 (see Public Involvement in Appendix B). Comments were received from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE). OSMRE has expressed a desire to participate in the NEPA process for the proposed tract. Their scoping comments, review of the final EA and participation in the upcoming public meeting have been invited. The issues addressed by the DWR have also been identified by the I.D. Team and will be discussed as management concerns. DWR's and OSMRE's letters are included in Appendix B. Comments on the unsuitability criteria were also solicited from the Utah Division of State History and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding Cultural Resources and Threatened and Endangered floral and faunal species respectively. Comments have been received from the Utah Division of State History (see Appendix B) and they have essentially identified no problems with leasing at this time and that any consultation for Section 106 purposes will be conducted at the time that future surface disturbing activities are proposed and fully surveyed for cultural resources. Although comments have been solicited from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (See Appendix B), no comments have been received to date.

1. Public Issues and Management Concerns

Underground mining and mining induced subsidence could result in changes to ground water and surface water flow on and adjacent to the undermined area. This could result in the alteration of soil moisture, vegetation and wildlife habitat on the surface, above and adjacent to the mined area. In addition, mining operations

could affect water quality of ground water in aquifers which lie within and below the mine workings. Operations could also affect water quality in drainages downstream of the facilities. The DWR and Forest Service are concerned that subsidence could decrease the flow or dry up springs which are used by wildlife for watering.

2. Opportunities

a. Leasing and production of coal reserves from the tract would result in increased rent and royalties paid to the Federal Government and will supplement State and Local Government revenues.

b. The coal reserves in the tract would be mined and made available for energy production and industrial use.

c. If the tract is mined through the existing Star Point Mine, the life of the mine would be extended approximately 5 years at their current rate of production by providing additional coal reserves.

E. Negative Declaration

The ID Team determined that this action, after mitigation, would cause no significant impacts on the following: prime or unique rangelands, wetlands, timberlands, or farmlands; floodplains; known cultural or paleontological resources; alluvial valley floors; known Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive plant or animal species.

The Coal Lease Unsuitability Criteria (Federal Regulations 43 CFR 3461) have been applied on a site-specific basis and no areas within the tract have been determined to be unsuitable for leasing.

II. ALTERNATIVES

A. Alternative One - No Action

Consideration of the "No Action" alternative is required by Federal regulations contained at 43 CFR 1502.14(d). If the course of this alternative were adopted, this tract would be eliminated from further leasing consideration and the application would be denied. The coal resource would not be developed and the site-specific environment of the subject area would in no way be affected.

B. Alternative Two - Offer the Tract for Leasing with Application of Management Requirements

Under this alternative, the tract would be offered for competitive leasing subject to standard and special lease stipulations. The

boundaries of the tract would remain unchanged from the configuration submitted in CPMC's applications as modified by the Tract Delineation Review Report which lie totally within the tract boundary as identified and evaluated in the Round Two leasing effort.

The required mitigations which are attached as Appendix C will be included in the lease as special stipulations in addition to standard BLM lease stipulations. They are consistent with the Forest Plan and require necessary special measures for protection of and/or coordination with the affected resources and mitigation of impacts.

III. AFFECTED/EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

The affected environment of the subject area has been generally described in numerous environmental documents and resource reports prepared for coal leasing, exploration and development in this and surrounding areas. These documents are listed for reference in Section VI, Selected Tiering and Reference Documents. There are several resources on the lease for which concerns were identified. These resources are essentially unique to the proposal and are evaluated in this document.

A. Topography/Physiography/Geology

The Wasatch Plateau lies within the Basin and Range-Colorado Plateau Transition Physiographic Province. The east flank rises almost 3,000 feet above Castle Valley. The upper 1,500 to 2,000 feet of this rise is a near vertical erosional escarpment or cliff. The sedimentary rock layers dip gently to the northwest throughout the central and eastern portions of the plateau. The plateau top is dissected by north-south trending fault zones which form north-south trending ridges and canyons.

Along the west flank of the plateau, the rock layers bend downward, dipping steeply to the west, and form the west flank. The west flank slope is controlled by the dip of the rock layers and is not as steep and abrupt as the east flank. This monoclinial fold of the rock layers is known as the Wasatch Monocline. Both the east and west flanks are deeply incised by east-west trending drainages and their canyons. North-south trending normal faults and extensive fault zones are common.

The tract area is located within the east-central portion of the Wasatch Plateau. Elevations range from approximately 8,800 to 10,100 feet above mean sea level. The southern portion of the lease is situated along the flat-lying northern portion of Gentry Mountain and is separated from the narrow, north-south trending Castle Valley Ridge to the north by a drop in elevation near mid-tract known as The Steeps. More than half of the tract has slopes that exceed 50%.

Rock formations exposed on the tract, in ascending order, are Mancos Shale, Blackhawk Formation, Price River Formation and North Horn Formation. These formations range in age from Cretaceous to Tertiary.

The coal seams of interest on the tract occur within the lower 150 feet of the Blackhawk Formation. There are numerous coal seams within the Blackhawk; however, only three coal seams (Wattis, Third, and Hiawatha) are continuous across the tract and obtain a thickness of four feet or greater. Of these three seams, only the Wattis is known to be minable. It may be possible to recover a small portion of the Third bed; however, this will have to be determined at a later time.

Outcrops of coal occur along the west edge of the tract which is the east side of Nuck Woodward Canyon and the head of Little Nuck Canyon, the northeast end of the tract at the head of North Fork of Corner Canyon and the east side of the tract at the head of South Fork of Corner Canyon. A 500-foot burn zone was used around all outcrops. Two major faults adjacent to the tract's east and west boundaries are constraints to mining. The strata on the tract dips approximately 3 degrees to the south-southwest. The overburden thins to the north of the tract. The apparent rank is high-volatile B bituminous coal. The preliminary recoverable reserve base for the Wattis seam is estimated by BLM to be 7,730,000 tons.

The tract has limited access based on faulting and economic value due to the relatively small amount of reserves present; therefore, only one mining scenario is considered practical. Access will be from CPMC's underground workings planned for U-13097 which lie within the Star Point Mine permit area adjacent to the southern and eastern boundaries of the tract. No additional surface facilities other than the possibility of ventilation breakouts should be needed since the Star Point #2 Mine facility will handle the additional tonnage that would be produced.

B. Hydrology and Climate

Annual precipitation from an area of comparable aspect, elevation and dominant vegetation was found to be 28 inches. A station summary of 12 years of record, illustrated that only 2.93 inches, or 10.4 percent, of the total average precipitation falls during the July through August growing season (Straight Canyon Barometer Watershed). Rainfall during the summer months often occurs in the form of intense thunderstorms. The nature of these storms can generate substantial surface runoff, possibly creating a significant increase in erosion rates, depending on soil type, plant basal area, slope, storm intensity, and duration. The freeze-free season of Castle Valley Ridge is 0-40 days. Average temperatures range from a minimum of 8 degrees in January to a maximum of 82 degrees Fahrenheit in July.

The Castle Valley Ridge Coal Tract is located on Castle Valley Ridge which forms the drainage divide between the Huntington Canyon and Price River Watersheds. Huntington Creek is tributary through the San Rafael and Green Rivers to the Colorado River. The Price River is tributary to the Colorado River through the Green River. Four stream channels drain the west side of the tract into Nuck Woodward Canyon which then drains to the south and west into Huntington Creek. The east side of the tract is drained by the North and South Forks of Corner Canyon which flow through Gordon Creek to the Price River. The southern tip of the tract is drained by Wild Cattle Hollow and Gentry

Hollow which flow to Tie Fork then into Huntington Creek. Data indicates that the South Fork of Corner Canyon and Little Park Creek are perennial. Little Park Creek is the southernmost drainage which drains the west side of the tract. Both drainages are fed by springs which emerge from within the tract boundary. The remaining drainages within the tract are intermittent, however, some short reaches are perennial immediately below springs.

Beneficial use standards for waters on and near the tract are 1c, 3a and 4 (Standards for Quality of Water for the State of Utah, 1987). All waters within the outer boundaries of National Forests are considered to be antidegradation segments for water quality. Category 1c is protected for domestic purposes with prior treatment by standard complete treatment processes as required by the Utah Department of Health. Category 3a is protected for cold water species of game fish and other cold water aquatic life, including the necessary aquatic organisms in their food chain. Category 4 is protected for agricultural uses including irrigation of crops and stock watering.

Continuous stream flow records are not available for any of the streams that drain the tract. Seiler and Baskin (1988) completed a study of the hydrology of the Castle Valley Ridge and Alkali Creek Coal-Lease Tracts and the potential effects of coal mining (U.S. Geological Survey Water Resources Investigation Report 87-4186). Since continuous streamflow records are not available for any of the drainages on the tract, Seiler and Baskin (1988) computed the flows in the South Fork of Corner Canyon using regression equations. They estimated the 10-year peak flow to be 60 cubic feet per second and the average flow to be 0.74 cubic feet per second at its confluence with the North Fork. Seiler and Baskin report that the predominant chemical constituents of water sampled from this location in the South Fork are magnesium, calcium, bicarbonate and sulfate. The water quality changes from high flows (snowmelt runoff) in the spring to low flows in late summer and fall when springs contribute a greater percentage of the flow. As streamflow decreases, the concentration of major ions and the proportion of magnesium and sulfate increases. Examination of data presented by CPMC in the application shows that flow in Little Park Creek exhibits similar characteristics. CPMC's data (1980-1987) show that Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) concentrations in the South Fork of Corner Canyon, measured just above the confluence with the North Fork, range from 445 mg/l to 1,400 mg/l with an average concentration of 648 mg/l. CPMC's data for Little Park Creek sampled just above the confluence with Nuck Woodward Creek in September of 1987 and June of 1988 showed a TDS concentration of 280 mg/l and 258 mg/l respectively. For parameters which have been tested, water quality is generally consistent with numeric standards for the beneficial uses. Phosphate is an exception. The values for phosphate on this tract and the Wasatch Plateau often exceed the standard for cold water fish (3a). The phosphates are believed to be naturally occurring.

Twelve springs have been mapped within or directly adjacent to the tract boundary by CPMC and Seiler and Baskin (1988). Ten of these springs issue from the Star Point Sandstone or Blackhawk Formation. One issues from the Price River Formation and the remaining spring

issues from the Castlegate Sandstone at the contact with the Blackhawk Formation. Four of the springs within the tract have been developed for livestock and wildlife watering. There is one small stockpond.

Water samples from 17 springs in the area were analyzed. The predominant ions in water from springs in the North Horn Formation, Castlegate Sandstone and Price River Formation are calcium and bicarbonate. The predominant ions in water from the Blackhawk Formation are calcium, bicarbonate and magnesium. The predominant ions in water from the Star Point Sandstone are calcium, bicarbonate, magnesium and sulfate. TDS concentrations were highest in springs from the Star Point Sandstone, ranging from 383 to 579 mg/l (Seiler and Baskin, 1988).

Ground water movement, both volume and direction, is controlled by geologic conditions and structure. Lithology, faulting, jointing and dip of the rock layers influence ground water movement and recharge. The Star Point Sandstone and lower Blackhawk Formation form a localized aquifer as indicated by the number of springs which flow from these units. Perched aquifers also occur in the discontinuous sandstone lenses of the upper Blackhawk Formation and other overlying formations. Recharge occurs at the higher elevations from snowmelt and runoff. Water infiltrates the ground water regime through porous rock, joints and faults. The dip of the rock layers is approximately 3 degrees to the southwest. The water flows down-dip until it encounters faults or joints and is diverted to lower units or is trapped in discontinuous perched sandstone lenses. Flow in the Blackhawk-Star Point aquifer is probably controlled by Bear Canyon fault (Seiler and Baskin, 1988). Faults probably form major conduits for water flow especially where downward flow is impeded by shales. This is indicated by the close correlation between spring and fault locations. The flow of water in the faults is probably to the south as indicated by the emergence of springs along the north slopes of drainages at fault locations.

C. Soils

Several soils reports are available for this area. It was mapped at the Order 4 intensity level in the Land Systems Inventory of the Ferron-Price Planning Unit by Dale Rapin, 1977. This inventory designates four land-type associations present in the area. They are land-type associations A, J, M, and N. Reference should also be made to two reports by Jim Iaquina. These are: (1) "Soil Resource Evaluation for Getty Oil Coal Exploration Proposed on Castle Valley Ridge", 12/15/80, and (2) a supplement to the preceding report, 2/9/81. The soils on the steep slopes are sensitive to disturbance but would not be considered "unreclaimable".

Natural soil erosion rates are quite high on the west facing steep slopes, however, the erosion rates have not been calculated. This would need to be done prior to disturbance if they were identified in a plan of operations. There are few limitations for activities on soils at the south end of the lease tract (Unit A on the land-type association map), but the northern 3/4 of the tract is limited by steep slopes and sensitive soils.

D. Range and Wildlife

The tract is within two cattle allotments. There are 1,440 head that graze the Gentry Mountain C&H Allotment to the south from approximately June 27 to September 30; while 246 head that graze the Castle Valley Ridge C&H Allotment to the north from June 21 to September 30.

The general area is heavily used for calving by elk. Elk use the area in the spring and early summer and then again in the late fall. It is important to the productivity of the elk herd to have areas such as Castle Valley Ridge where they find seclusion (undisturbed by man) for calving and during the early part of the young calf's life. Some studies have shown that a cow will return to the same vicinity to drop her calf when she has been successful in past years in raising her young. This accounts for the heavy calving use we find in some areas such as the Castle Valley Ridge area.

The diversity of vegetative types on the lease tract supports a diverse wildlife population. Besides deer and elk, other game and furbearing species include: black bear, cougar, bobcat, badger, coyote, snowshoe hare, and occasionally moose have been seen. Avifauna of the area may include several species of raptors, jay and sparrow. Because of the diversity of habitat components, there are many small mammals and songbirds found on the lease which are too numerous to list in detail in this report.

There are no fisheries within the tract. Surface water from the tract does drain into Huntington Creek which is considered a valuable fishery. Bald eagles, an endangered species, are annual visitors in the region between November and March, however, no critical habitat has been identified within the tract. No other Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive species are known to inhabit the tract.

E. Vegetation

Trees such as Douglas fir, Englemann spruce, Subalpine fir and some White fir are scattered throughout the tract area, but are mostly found in stands occurring on the north and east facing slopes. Quaking aspen are found mostly on the more gentle slopes and somewhat wetter sites on the south and west slopes. Mountainbrush types occur on the dryer exposed slopes and are mostly dominated by mountain sagebrush, oakbrush, snowberry, serviceberry and some mahogany. A grass type occurs on the tops of the high ridges and windy upper slopes of the area. The dominant species are Salina wild ryegrass and western wheatgrass. There are several plant communities within each of the broad vegetative zones occurring in the tract. These are: Douglas fir - snowberry - carex; White fir - common juniper - bluegrass; Englemann spruce - Alpine fir - wild gooseberry; Aspen - snowberry - slender wheatgrass; Aspen - Oregon grape - bluegrass; big mountain sagebrush - western wheatgrass; mixed mountainbrush - slender wheatgrass; Salina wildrye - Coltons locoweed; Salina wildrye - low rabbitbrush types. Other types or phases of the above types do occur within this area. Each of these vegetative types and phases have

different environmental requirements and each will require different considerations for reclamation of disturbed areas.

F. Recreation and Visual Resources

Recreation Resource - Generally, the landscape is characterized by a natural appearing environment. The setting contains subtle modifications which would be noticeable, but would not seem to draw attention to the observer wandering through the area.

Recreation in the lease area includes dispersed camping, fuelwood gathering, hunting and sight seeing during the spring/summer/fall seasons. The greatest recreation use is in the fall during the big-game hunting seasons. There are no developed or inventoried recreation sites on the tract.

Scenic Quality is considered to be "common" or average. Landforms are distinctive while vegetative and water forms appear minimal.

The visual quality objective on the northern portion of the area and part of the southern portion is "Modification". Modification means that the result of man's activities may dominate the natural landscape but should borrow natural appearing line, form, color and texture from the natural landscape.

The visual quality objective for the remaining southern portion is "Partial Retention". Partial Retention means that the result of man's activities should remain subordinate to the natural landscapes.

G. Socioeconomics

The area of influence for the Castle Valley Ridge Tract, whether developed as an existing mine extension or an independent operation, is Carbon and Emery Counties which will be referred to as the study area.

The study area had an estimated population of 33,300 in 1988. Since 1980, population in the area has declined by 700 or about 2%. Population peaked in 1982 at 37,600 from which it has declined by 4,300 or about 12% in the 6 year period.

Other factors even more dramatically indicate the decline of the study area's economy over the last 5 years including:

Employment decline	-6,831 Jobs (38%)
Non Ag. Payroll decline	-\$77,100,000 (26%)
Personal Income decline	-\$19,100,000 (5%)
Unemployment (1982 - 6.5%)	(1987 - 13%)

Considering 1987 data, mining is the dominant industry in the study area accounting for about 40% of the non agriculture payroll. The second most important sector is transportation/communication/public

utility which account for 17% of payroll and is dominated by the 3 large electric power generating facilities in the area powered by coal mined in the area.

Other industries in the area contribute on the following basis: Farming (2 1/2%), Construction (5%), Manufacturing (1.5%), Trade (9%), Services (10%), Government (15%).

Population projections for the study area by the Utah Office of Planning and Budget show a very modest population increase of +1,500 or about 4.5% by the year 2000.

A major factor in the study area is what has happened in Utah coal mining industry employment (all operating coal mines in the state are in the study area except the SUFCO mine in Sevier County). Coal mine employment peaked in 1982 at 5,151 when 16,912,000 tons of coal production occurred. Within a period of one year from this peak, employment fell to 3,163 in 1983. Moderate decline has continued in recent years to the present level of 2,577. It is particularly significant that in the period from 1983 to 1987, coal production went from 12,182,000 tons to 16,200,000 tons, a 33% increase while employment went from 3,163 to 2,577, a 19% reduction. The productivity of Utah coal mining has increased significantly in the last 4 years due to longwall installation and other efficiency factors yielding a peak in 1988 of 18,200,000 tons.

IV. EFFECTS OF IMPLEMENTATION

A. Alternative One - No Action

Under this alternative the tract would not be offered for lease, therefore, the tract would not be mined.

There would be no environmental consequences to the tract area and surrounding vicinity and there would be no economic benefit to the Federal, State and local governments from coal lease fees and coal royalties. In addition, there would be no boost to the local economics and to the present unemployment rates in the area and the Star Point Mines would close sooner without the additional reserves.

B. Alternative Two - Offer the Tract for Leasing with Application of Management Requirements

Under Alternative Two, the stipulations contained in Appendix C would be included for the entire tract and anticipated impacts would be mitigated to an acceptable level.

1. Short-term and Residual Impacts

Development of the tract will logically follow leasing. Both short-term and residual impacts to Forest resources can be expected to result from development of the property. No surface

developments are proposed for the tract. Any proposal for future exploration or development on the tract will be evaluated as separate actions.

Longwall mining of the Wattis seam will result in fracturing of the overburden and subsidence of the ground surface above the underground workings. Temporary surface cracks may occur; however, these will generally heal themselves over time. Subsidence begins soon after mining and may continue for years afterwards. The rate, extent and amount will vary with geologic conditions and mining operations, but the amount may approximate 70% of the extracted coal height. Subsidence could increase the instability of the slopes especially in the northern portion of the lease, due to shallow overburden, thus resulting in increased erosion or slope failures. It is estimated that the average angle-of-draw for subsidence for the Wastach Plateau Coal field would fall between 15 and 22 degrees (measured from vertical), but has yet to be determined for the tract.

Most surface effects of subsidence are expected to occur toward the northern portion of the area due to shallow overburden. Some cracking is expected, however, the cracks are expected to fill in and appear natural within 5 years.

The result of the activity is expected to remain visually subordinate.

It is expected that mining and subsidence will have an effect upon the natural ground water flow, which may in turn alter the location and flow of seeps and springs above mined areas. Flow of some springs could be reduced and new springs could be created. Subsidence induced fracturing could divert surface waterflow directly underground if surface cracks intersect a stream channel or remain open. There is some evidence that cracks in the Blackhawk Formation seal themselves when they become wet due to expanding clays. The amount of water which could be diverted from the surface and perched aquifers to lower units or into the mine workings would depend on the extent of cracks which occur and the amount and rate of healing. Surface water diverted underground would not be lost from the hydrologic system and may or may not be lost from the subbasin in which it originates. Any resultant changes in the patterns of surface water occurrences could be expected to affect vegetation, wildlife or other surface resources depending upon the changes in soil moisture.

According to Seiler and Baskin (1988), diversion of water from the Price River Basin through the mine workings to the Huntington River Basin could occur since ground water encountered in the Star Point Mines is presently being discharged to the Price River Basin. If diversion is determined to be significant, it could be mitigated by construction of a breakout for mine water discharge on the west side of the divide. Flow distribution to the two watersheds will probably be restored after abandonment of the mine and pumping to the discharge location is discontinued.

Water quality could be altered due to changes in the route of flow and location of convergence of springs which feed surface drainages. The dissolved constituents of the water may be altered due to changes in contact time with specific rock formations. These changes, however, are not considered to be significant or quantifiable at this time.

Water quality may be altered by discharging mine water into drainages. Due to the volume of discharge water, dilution could occur resulting in improvement of water quality for some parameters. The discharged water could also result in decreased water quality due to the introduction of additional amounts of dissolved constituents. As water flows through mine workings it could become contaminated with oil and grease, metals, coal dust, sulfates and other materials. Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) could increase, however, NPDES permits require treatment to meet State standards for discharge. Seiler and Baskin (1988) indicate that discharge from abandoned and reclaimed mine areas could increase the concentration of dissolved solids and decrease the pH of the receiving drainages. They also indicate that water may still meet Utah's drinking-water standards. Lindskov (1986) completed a study of the potential effects of coal mining on the salinity of the Price, San Rafael and Green Rivers. He concluded that anticipated mining in the Price and San Rafael River basins is not expected to cause a detectable change in the quantity and quality of flow in the Green River.

2. Short-term Use vs. Long-term Productivity

The only reasonable assumption for development of the CVR tract is through acquisition and access by the applicant. Cyprus-Plateau indicates that the tract will "allow the company to maintain a high annual production level for the balance of its existence." They also indicate the tract will allow the company to "maintain 42 additional employees for a 17 year period." These are not new employees but existing employees who would have jobs as the mine life is extended for an equivalent 5 years. In 1987 and 1988, the Star Point Mines produced about 1.8 million tons (gross) and 1.6 million tons (net) with an estimated 225 employees.

In summary, the leasing and development of the tract will not have significant additional socioeconomic impact on the study area. The main factor will be prevention of lay-offs and extension of mine life. The applicant indicates 34.25 million dollars of direct and indirect wages will be created and 13.6 million dollars of royalties will be paid to the Federal government which will return 50% to the state government.

Most of the short-term effects on surface resource productivity result from facilities such as portals, conveyors, powerplants, etc., which are all located off the tract area. If any surface facilities are proposed they will be evaluated in a separate environmental assessment.

Underground mining and subsidence could involve long-term alteration of the ground water flow and associated effects to surface resources. The long-term productivity could be altered as drainages, soils and vegetation gradually adjust to any modified ground water conditions. The surface resource productivity could decrease or increase depending on the amount of available water.

3. Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

Development of the lease tract will irreversibly and irretrievably commit any coal that is mined to the purpose for which it is eventually used, in this case presumably steam generation of electricity. Any coal that remains in place after the lease is mined will be, for all practical purposes, committed to non-use. This commitment will probably be irreversible and irretrievable. Any resources, labor and materials that are utilized for development of the tract will be irreversibly and irretrievably committed to that use. Those aquifers that are disturbed during mining or subsidence become irretrievably and irreversibly altered.

4. Cumulative Impacts

Historically, man's activities in the Castle Valley Ridge vicinity include livestock grazing, timber sales, recreation and mineral exploration and development. The impacts discussed for the proposed action would be added to those impacts which already exist from these other activities.

Livestock grazing since the late 1800's combined with range improvements, timber sales, fire control and watershed improvement projects have caused change in vegetation types present in the area and plant diversity and density. Some decrease in soil productivity and watershed conditions have also occurred. Range and watershed improvements are resulting in improvement of conditions.

The construction of roads to meet access needs and off-road travel from recreation activities have resulted in removal of some vegetation and increased erosion.

Mineral exploration in the area includes coal and oil and gas exploration drill holes and geophysical exploration. All of the roads and drill pads associated with these activities have been successfully reclaimed. The only mineral production in the area at present is coal mining.

Cumulative effects of current activities, including the proposed leasing action, are expected to be within the thresholds established in the Forest Plan.

V. PERSONNEL AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

A. Interdisciplinary Team

<u>SPECIALTY</u>	<u>SPECIALIST</u>	<u>ROLE</u>
Engineering	Brent B. Barney	Member
District Ranger	Ira W. Hatch	Consultant
Visual Quality/Rec.	James Jensen	Consultant
Hydrology	Dennis Kelly	Member
Soils & Reclamation	Dan Larsen	Member
Minerals/Geology	Terry McParland	Member Rep. BLM - Moab District
Socio-Economics	Max Nielson	Member BLM Utah State Office
Minerals/Geology	Walter Nowak	ID Team Leader
Wildlife/T.E.&S. Animals	Rod Player	Member
T.E.&S. Plants/Range	Bob Thompson	Member
Cultural Resources	Les Wikle	Consultant

B. Other Organizational and Public Involvement

In addition to the news release requesting comments, from the general public there were 15 solicitations from specific, interested publics. Copies of these documents are contained in Appendix B. Based on comments received, public interest is considered to be low. See section I-D, Public Issues, Management Concerns and Opportunities of this EA for a discussion of responses.

VI. SELECTED TIERING AND REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- 1) E.A. for Modification of Federal Coal Lease U-13097, 8/17/83.
- 2) E.A. Readjustment of Federal Coal Lease SL-031286, 6/24/83.
- 3) Application for Federal Coal Lease Tract UTU-64263, Castle Valley Ridge, Cyprus-Plateau Mining Corp.
- 4) E.A. Modification of Federal Coal Lease SL-031286, 9/3/82.
- 5) Tract Delineation Review Report, Leasing on Application UTU-64263, 2/1/89.
- 6) Situation Statement, Castle Valley Ridge Tract 3/80.
- 7) E.A. Proposed Coal Exploration Drilling, CVR and Gentry Mountain, Getty Mineral Resources Company, 9/11/81.
- 8) Site Specific Analysis Castle Valley Ridge Proposed Coal Lease Tract, 5/25/82.
- 9) Manti-LaSal National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and Final EIS, 11/86.

- 10) Uinta-Southwestern Utah Region Round Two Final EIS, 1983.
- 11) Lindskov, K.L., 1986. Potential effects of Anticipated Coal Mining on Salinity of the Price, San Rafael and Green Rivers, Utah; U.S. Geological Survey, Water-Resources Investigations Report 86-4019.
- 12) Seiler, R.L. and Baskin, R.L., 1988. Hydrology of Alkalai Creek and Castle Valley Ridge Coal-Lease Tracts, Central Utah, and Potential Effects of Coal Mining, U.S. Geological Survey, Water-Resources Investigations Report 87-4186.
- 13) Star Point Mines, Mining and Reclamation Plan, Plateau Mining Company, September, 1986.