

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Manti-LaSal
National Forest

FOREST SERVICE
MANTI-LASAL NATIONAL FOREST
PRICE RIVER DISTRICT

APR 25 1989

599 West Price River Dr.
Price, Utah 84501

Reply to: 2820

Date: April 25, 1989

Floyd McMullen
Office of Surface Mining
Reclamation and Enforcement
Brooks Towers
1020 15th. Street
Denver, Colorado 84501

Dear Mr. McMullen:

We received your letter, dated April 14, 1989, requesting that the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) be included as a cooperating agency regarding the Environmental Analysis for the proposed Castle Valley Ridge Tract (Coal Lease Application UTU-64263).

The Bureau of Land Management and Manti-LaSal National Forest are cooperating in regard to preparation of the Environmental Assessment. The first step in obtaining public participation and identifying public issues and management concerns is identified as project scoping. On March 29, 1989, we sent a letter to your office requesting comments on an attached Project Scoping Document. Similar letters were sent to all identified interested publics. The Project Scoping Document listed preliminary issues and concerns identified by the Forest Service prior to soliciting public comments or assembling the Interdisciplinary Team. Comments from the public which would be used to confirm or adjust the list of issues and concerns to be addressed in the Environmental Assessment were requested by April 18, 1989.

Since the Environmental Assessment will be prepared for a leasing action and OSMRE's responsibilities under SMCRA do not begin until a Mining and Reclamation Plan is submitted, we did not identify OSMRE as a cooperating agency in conducting the environmental analysis. We will, however, consider any comments or advice regarding potential environmental affects of mining which your agency would like to contribute.

When the Environmental Assessment is finalized it will be available for review by interested publics and a public meeting as required under Federal Regulations 43 CFR 3425.4(a)(1) will be scheduled. The BLM decision regarding leasing and the Forest Service consent/non-consent decision will be made after the meeting

and will be documented in an appropriate decision document. The decision document will also be released for public review and the Forest Service consent/non-consent decision will be subject to appeal through Forest Service Appeal Regulations.

If you have any questions, please contact Walt Nowak at this office.

Sincerely,

/s/ Aaron L. Howe

for
GEORGE A. MORRIS
Forest Supervisor

cc:
D-3
C. Reed