

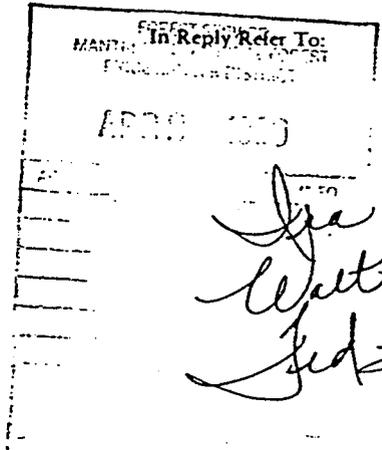


United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT
BROOKS TOWERS
1020 15TH STREET
DENVER, COLORADO 80202



April 14, 1989



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

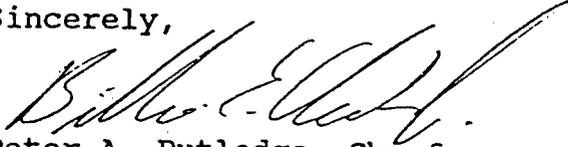
Dear Mr. Morris,

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) is responsible for the preparation of National Environmental Policy Act compliance documents that examine the probable impacts to the human environment of approving or disapproving mining plans associated with the development of Federal coal estate in the State of Utah. Your current effort to evaluate Cypress-Plateau Mining Corporation's application to lease the Castle Valley Ridge Coal Tract in Carbon and Emery Counties is of particular interest to us, because your evaluation could affect possible future mine development. Moreover, any environmental document that addresses mine development in this area could be used by OSMRE as a reference document, if not a NEPA compliance document, for mine plan approval activities in future years. For these reasons, OSMRE would like to participate fully as a formal cooperating agency in the preparation of the environmental assessment for the Castle Valley Ridge Coal Tract.

With your consent, we are prepared to participate in any additional scoping activities you may plan, assist in the review and formulation of the coal development scenario, identify probable impacts, and provide as complete a review as possible of any preliminary documents you prepare. We would be pleased to increase our involvement to the extent our agencies agree is necessary and OSMRE resources allow.

We have designated Floyd McMullen in our Federal Lands Branch to be the primary contact for this project. He will coordinate all requests for environmental analysis and/or review. Please direct any questions to Floyd in Denver at (303) 844-3104.

Sincerely,

for 
Peter A. Rutledge, Chief
Federal Programs Division
Western Field Operations

cc: Price District Ranger
OSMRE-AFO Director