

United States
 Department of
 Agriculture

Forest
 Service

Manti-LaSal
 National Forest

599 West Price River Dr.
 Price, Utah 84501

Reply to: 2820

Date: January 20, 1989

11-04-10-0000

Gene Nodine
 BLM - Moab District
 P.O. Box 970
 Moab, Utah 84532

RECEIVED
 JAN 23 1989

DIVISION OF
 OIL, GAS & MINING

Dear Gene:

An inspection of all exploration work conducted by Getty Mining Company under Coal Exploration License U-54597 (Tie Fork Project) has been completed by the Price Ranger District. Plateau Mining Company drilled only four of the originally approved 14 holes. Drill holes 85-2-2 and 85-2-4 which lie on McCadden Ridge and hole 85-35-1 in Tie Fork were completed in 1985. Drill hole 86-26-4 on Gentry Ridge was completed in 1986.

Drill holes 85-2-2 and 85-2-4 have been successfully reclaimed. Drill hole 85-35-1 was artesian and has been converted to a culinary water well. The Forest Service has issued a special-use permit to Castle Valley Special Services District to include this well into their culinary water system. The permit releases Plateau Mining Company from reclamation obligations for this hole.

Drill hole 86-26-4 has been converted to a water monitoring well in the approved Mining and Reclamation Plan for the Star Point Mine. A second well (86-26-6) was drilled on the site to monitor an additional deeper aquifer. The two wells should be considered as one disturbed site. This site has been recontoured and a fence has been constructed around the disturbed area. The soils at this location are very rocky and re-establishment of vegetation is poor. If re-establishment of vegetation does not improve by the end of next field season, additional treatment will be needed.

With the exception of hole 86-26-4, Plateau Mining Company has met the requirements for reclamation and revegetation of the holes. It is not clear if bonding for adequate revegetation of the site and plugging of the hole should remain under the Coal Exploration License or should be added to the Mining and Reclamation Plan for the Star Point Mine. Since the holes do not lie within the approved permit area, adding the holes to the permit area would first require specific approval by the Forest Service and an appropriate permit.

If the responsibility for this hole remains under the Bureau of Land Management's jurisdiction as continuing responsibility under the Coal Exploration License, sufficient bonding for revegetation, maintenance and removal of the fence, and plugging of both involved holes should be retained. If the remaining responsibility is shifted to the Mining and Reclamation Plan, under OSMRE's and UDOGM's jurisdiction, the Coal Exploration License could be closed and the bond released, but only after a modification is made to the Mining and Reclamation Plan to adequately cover Plateau Mining Company's responsibility for revegetation, fence maintenance and removal, and hole plugging.

The estimated bond amount to be obtained for revegetation and fence removal is \$500. This does not include bonding for plugging of the two holes which needs to be added to the total bond to be retained. We feel that the BLM should calculate the additional bond for hole plugging.

Please review your regulations and policy and let us know how you intend to handle the responsibility for the remaining hole. Consultation with UDOGM and this office will be necessary if the responsibility will be shifted from the Coal Exploration License to the Mining and Reclamation Plan.

If you have any questions, please contact the Forest Supervisor's Office or the Price Ranger District Office in Price, Utah.

/s/ Aaron L. Howe

for
GEORGE A. MORRIS
Forest Supervisor

cc:
L. Braxton, DOGM
S. Faulk, BLM - San Rafael Resource Area
D-3
C. Reed

*John: This has some interesting ramifications in that addition to our permits might constitute a revision rather than an amendment. It also ties us into off permit exploration which is a BLM lead. You & I should chew on this and discuss further w/ BLM staff
LBB PL*