

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Manti-La Sal
National Forest

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

0021

Reply to: 2820

Date: September 11, 1992

RECEIVED

SEP 14 1992

DIVISION OF
OIL GAS & MINING

ACT 100/1006 # 27
And
Exploration
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Pamela Grubaugh-Littig
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
355 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Ut 84180-1203

Dear Pam:

The Manti-La Sal National Forest is currently evaluating a proposal filed by Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOG M) to conduct coal exploration drilling on the north end of Gentry Mountain near Little Park Canyon about 17 miles west of Price, Utah. Cyprus is proposing to drill 3 holes: 2 helicopter supported holes to evaluate future air portal locations for their Star Point Mine; and 1 air shaft hole to an underground, sealed safe room. All of the holes are located on Federal lands with the Forest boundary and on Federal coal leases U-13097 and UTU-64263.

As surface management agency for these lands, the Forest Service is required to conduct an environmental analysis. The Price Ranger District is in the process of preparing this analysis for this proposal and is seeking input from the public.

Location maps and a copy of the project Scoping Document have been enclosed for your information. If you have any questions regarding this project, don't hesitate to contact us at the above address or call us at (801) 637-2817. Any comments on the proposal should be submitted by September 23, 1992.

Sincerely,



Charles J. Jankiewicz
Price District Ranger

enclosures

MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST
PROJECT SCOPING DOCUMENT

DATE: 09/09/92

DISTRICT NAME: Price

FILE CODE: 2820

1. PROJECT NAME: Plateau's 1992 3-hole Coal Drilling Program on North Gentry.
2. RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: George A. Morris
3. PROPOSAL: Cyprus Plateau has proposed to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGGM) to conduct a 3-hole coal drilling project near the northern end of Gentry Mountain. One of the holes is located within the Star Point Mine permit area (Federal Coal Lease, FCL, U-13097) and is being handled by DOGM as an amendment to that permit. The 2 coal exploration drill are located on FCL UTU-64263 outside the mine permit area and the approval will be coordinated by the BLM. Since all 3 holes are located on Federal lands within the Forest, both the BLM and DOGM have requested Forest Service comments and recommendations for approval. Please see attached maps for locations.

The objective of the 2 coal exploration holes is to evaluate coal seam characteristics and the nature of a fault zone to help locate air portals planned for future development of the Star Point Mine. These holes would be drilled using a portable, helicopter-supported rig so no new roads would be constructed. The drill site equipment would be cribbed up using on site logs, rocks, or imported ties so no pad construction would be needed and the only real surface disturbance would occur where the rig spuds in. These holes would be converted to water monitoring wells.

The remaining hole is being drilled to provide an 8" shaft to a sealed, underground, safe room allowing the passage of food, water, air and communications in an emergency situation. The shaft would protrude 4' above the ground and would be topped with a 4' diameter, inverted "U", 8" pipe. A 50' X 50' square area would be fenced enclosing the pipe and both would remain for life of mine (2010). Conventional surface access to this hole location would be gained by the use of existing FDRs, reopening a short, reclaimed access, and driving over about 550' of new access with no construction involved. The project would be completed during the 1992 field season.

4. TIERING AND REFERENCING OPPORTUNITIES: Manti-La Sal National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement, November, 1986 (Forest Plan and FEIS); EA for NEICO's Proposed 6-Hole, Helicopter-Supported Coal Exploration Drilling Program, UTU-65418, Northern East Mountain, Emery County, Utah 8/89; Decision Memo for PacifiCorp's 1992 Six Hole Coal Exploration Drilling Program on East Mountain Near North Fork of Meetinghouse Canyon, 7/17/92; and, Decision Memo Cyprus Coal Company, 3 Hole On-Lease and 7 Hole Off-Lease Coal Exploration Drilling Program, Federal Coal Lease U-61049, 7/16/91.
5. OTHER AGENCIES OR PUBLICS INVOLVED: BLM and DOGM. A news release was submitted to the Sun Advocate and the Emery County Progress for publication. Letters will be sent to identified interested publics inviting scoping comments on the proposal.

6. **EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT:** Disturbance to wildlife from increased traffic and human presence (noise and activity) would occur during the project. The removal of vegetation for any construction could temporarily decrease the productiveness of the areas and increase soil loss.
7. **ISSUES:** No new, unmitigated issues have been identified for this project above and beyond those previously described in the aforementioned tiering documents.
8. **SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVES:** 1) No Action, 2) Proposed Action with Forest Service mitigations (from Appendix B of the Forest Plan), which includes possible modification of locations and access methods.
9. **ANALYSIS AND DECISION CRITERIA:** Management decisions and guidelines as defined in the Forest Plan. The Management Emphasis for the project area is Production of Forage (RNG). The General RNG Direction for General Minerals Management (page III-66 of the Forest Plan) is 1) "Provide appropriate mitigation measures to assure continued livestock access and use." 2) "Those authorized to conduct developments will be required to replace losses through appropriate mitigations, where a site-specific development adversely affects long-term production or management."
10. **ANALYSIS SKILLS:**

SPECIALTY	SPECIALIST	ROLE (team leader, team member consultant, other)
District Ranger	Charlie Jankiewicz	Member
Wildlife Biology	Rod Player	Member
Wildlife Biology	Steve Romero	Member
Botany/Range	Bob Thompson	Member
Geology/Minerals	Walt Nowak	Team Leader
Landscape Architect	Jim Jensen	Consultant

11. SCHEDULE:

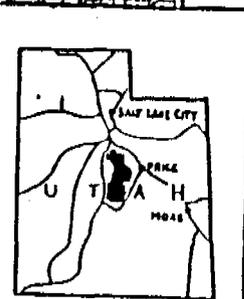
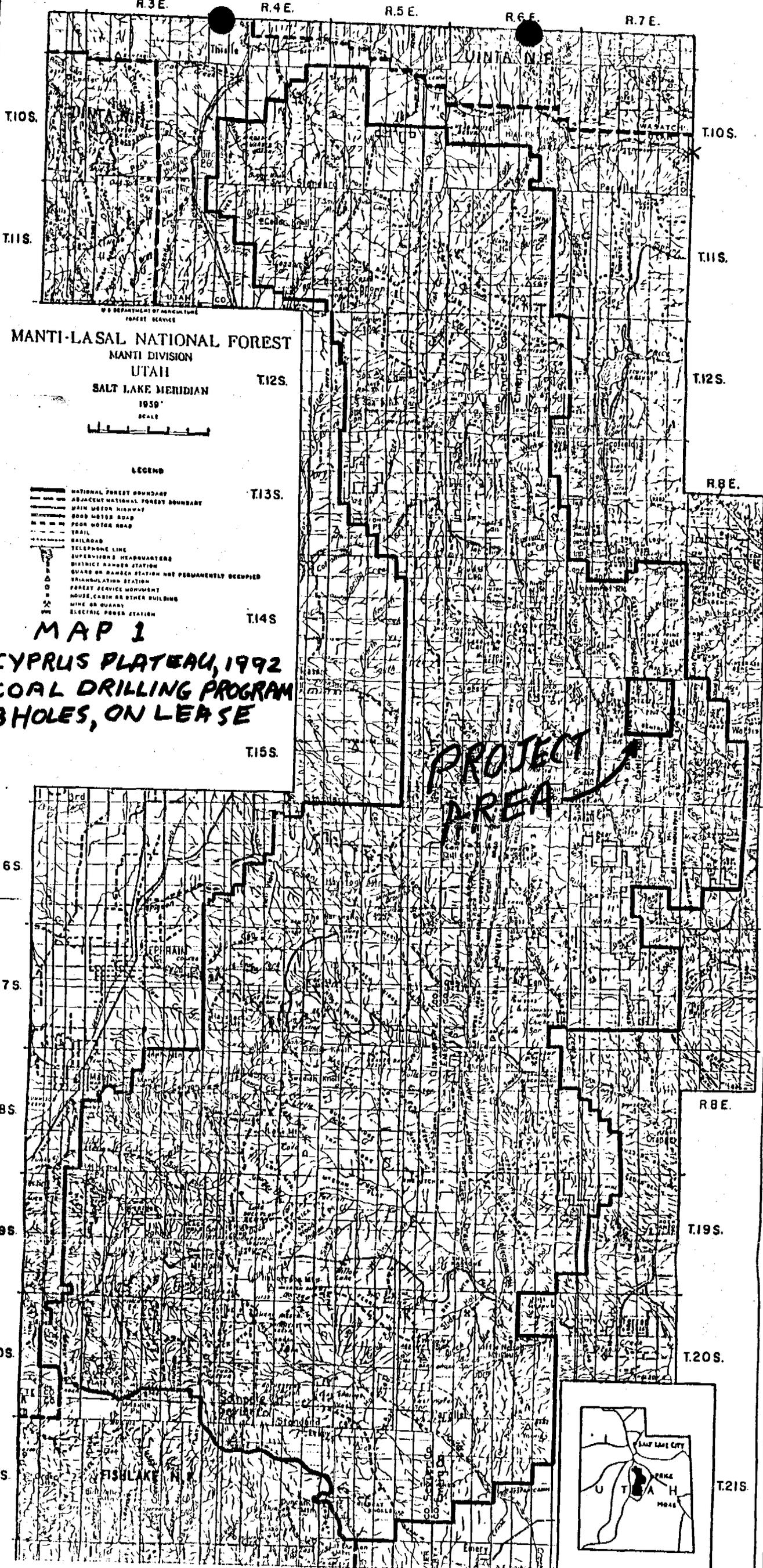
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|---------------------|----------|------------------------------|----------|
| a. Initial Meeting: | 05/18/92 | d. EA Draft: | __/__/__ |
| b. Field Review: | 05/18/92 | e. S.O. Decision Memorandum: | 09/__/92 |
| c. ID Team Meeting: | 05/18/92 | f. Project Implementation: | 09/__/92 |

12. PROPOSED LEVEL OF ANALYSIS:

- Requires further assessment: _____
- Requires minimal assessment: _____
- Requires no further assessment: _____
- Categorical Exclusion: _____

Charles J. Jankiewicz
 District Ranger

9/8/92
 Date



MAP 2

THE STEEPS

PP-10-3

PP-10-1

LITTLE PARK CANYON FAN DECK

LITTLE PARK CANYON

LITTLE PARK

Leased but not PERMITTED

AIR SHAFT HOLE
W/TEMP
ACCESS

