



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Manti-La Sal
National Forest

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File Code: 2820-4

Date: November 8, 2002

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DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

Copy Baron,
Pan, Wayne
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Dear Mary Ann:

A field inspection of the Gentry Mountain area was conducted jointly by UDOGM, BLM, and the Forest Service on October 1, 2002. We have several concerns regarding relinquishment of Federal Coal Leases on National Forest System lands within the Starpoint Mine Permit Area and surface reclamation of various underground mining related projects on Gentry Mountain.

Below is a list of concerns/projects that need to be addressed before the Forest Service can recommend lease relinquishment or consent to removal of the areas from the mine permit area.

1. In accordance with lease stipulations, final monitoring reports for subsidence, hydrology, and vegetation must be submitted to the BLM and FS for review and concurrence. These reports must demonstrate that subsidence is substantially complete, and effects to water and vegetation resources have not occurred or have been adequately mitigated.
2. Monitoring wells need to be properly plugged and well structures removed per BLM/UDOGM standards. In the process of doing this work, surface disturbances must be fully reclaimed with appropriate levels of vegetation standards met.
3. The emergency escapeway/air vent hole needs to be properly plugged, sealed, and cemented per BLM and Forest Service standards/requirements. In addition, surface disturbances must be fully reclaimed in accordance with reclamation/revegetation standards.
4. Surface subsidence fractures must be reclaimed as soon as possible to mitigate potential hazards to animals and humans. Several fractures not reflected in the most recent subsidence monitoring report were located during the joint field inspection. These fractures must be added to the subsidence monitoring reports with information regarding when they occurred along with a discussion of what mining and/or geologic conditions contributed to their occurrence.
5. The lack of water flowing from Star Point Spring needs to be addressed. In 1936 the Forest Service filed on this spring and the flow was recorded at 0.015CFS (4.6 GPM) for use between June 21 and September 30. Livestock permittees have contended that prior to mining under the area, water flowed freely at this location (unfortunately flow measurements were not routinely recorded). After mining occurred in 1987, flow has



diminished to zero except for one intermittent year (May, 1990 where flow was measured at 0.5 GPM). A citizen's complaint was filed in August 1998 by the Huntington Cattle Association. In response, an inspection report, dated September 1998, was completed as stated in item 5(a): "the water user and the mine would maintain/re-develop the spring." To date, no attempts have been made to reestablish the spring. This situation needs to be investigated, and as appropriate, potential mitigations identified to bring this issue to closure.

In addition, inspections were conducted at the reclaimed portal sites in Corner Canyon and Mud Water Canyon later in October 2002. The Forest Service is satisfied with progress of the reclamation; however, some mine timbers, roof bolts, and cable were found that must be removed.

If you have any questions, please contact Tom Lloyd, Ferron-Price District Geologist, at 435-384-2372 or Carter Reed, Forest Geologist, at 435-637-2817.

Sincerely,



ELAINE J. ZIEROTH
Forest Supervisor

cc:
D-2/3
Sally Wisely, BLM Utah State Office
Pat Gubbins, BLM Price Field Office
Johnny Pappas, Plateau Mining Company

11/15/02
Call to Carter Reed
for location of
hole in Iden #3
MOW