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# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
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September 27, 1988

TO: File

FROM: Lowell Braxton, Administrator *LOB*

RE: Sunnyside Permit: B.P. Surface Exploration Program,  
Kaiser Coal Corporation, Sunnyside Mine, ACT/007/007  
Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

## Conclusions and Recommendations

The proposed B.P. exploration drilling program will impact lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and will not impact the Sunnyside permit area, with the exception of limited construction of access roads. Off-permit exploration regulation falls under BLM lead. Formal DOGM review beyond responding to BLM inquiry is not required on this project at this time.

## Background

B.P. Coal is conducting a coal resource evaluation of the B Canyon environs. This evaluation will include a non-mechanized outcrop sampling program and a three-hole core program. All boreholes are located outside the Sunnyside permit area. New access roads must be constructed to the proposed drill sites and tentative location of these roads and holes are shown on the enclosed map. As depicted, the proposed access roads will cross the Sunnyside permit in possibly three places. Total road construction on the permit area will be less than one mile. All drill holes and access trails, whether on permit or off permit, will impact BLM surface underlain by BLM minerals.

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The cooperative agreement for the Utah Coal Program gives the lead to the BLM for exploration programs outside the permit area. Should the BLM deem impacts of road building mitigatable off the permit area, it appears that the BLM will require these efforts to be mitigated within the permit area since this is BLM land. If the program is approved by BLM the minor impact to the permit area, relative to that being reviewed by the BLM, suggests a full-blown review of "On Permit Area" impact by the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining will not be a meaningful accomplishment.

I discussed this concept with Dean Nyftler, Price BLM, on September 23, 1988. DOGM should support BLM efforts on this project if requested by BLM, but DOGM review efforts beyond that are not required at this time.

djh  
cc: J. Whitehead  
WP+/7-8  
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