PRO-007-039

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United States Department of the Interior

U-07746

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Office of the Area Mining Supervisor
Conservation Division
8426 Federal Building
125 South State Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138

RECEIVED
APR 26 1978
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS, & MINING

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

April 24, 1978

Pacific Gas & Electric
245 Market St.
San Francisco, CA 94106

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the requirements of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, and the initial program regulations that were published on December 13, 1977, you are advised that your proposed mining and reclamation plan for the Sage Point and Dugout Canyon mine cannot be approved until the plan fully conforms to the requirements of those regulations (30 CFR Part 700 et. seq. copy enclosed).

Those regulations are found in the Federal Register beginning at page 62639, and have been subsequently amended and corrected. One significant amendment relating to sediment ponds was published in the Federal Register on February 27, 1978, beginning at page 8090.

In the interest of processing your mining plan and preparing related environmental reviews and documents in a timely manner, you are urged to bring your mining plan into full conformance with the initial program requirements at the earliest possible date by filing appropriate amendments or revised mining and reclamation plans with this office and appropriate State officials as soon as possible.

Until such amendments or revisions are received, and technical and administrative reviews are completed by this office, the State (when cooperative agreements are in effect under 30 CFR 211), and the Office of Surface Mining, the regulatory approval cannot be given.

I call to your attention specifically those portions of the regulations relating to backfilling and grading, toxic materials, revegetation, hydrology and alluvial valley floors, and the need to detail your proposals, options, and scheduling of operations. Your plans should thoroughly integrate reclamation-related activities with production schedules.

Your plans must not only conform to the initial requirements of the Surface Mining Act, but must also conform to those sections of the

Department's Coal Mining Operating Regulations (30 CFR 211) not affected by the new Act and regulations or State cooperative agreements. The 30 CFR 211's are presently being updated and when published as final rulemaking will incorporate initial program requirements of the Surface Mining Act.

The Geological Survey, the Office of Surface Mining, and BLM will convene regional meetings with you and other applicants in the near future to discuss these matters. Such meetings will be organized around the preparation of regional and site-specific coal impact statements, and/or environmental analyses now in progress, and you will be notified of the time and place of such a meeting. In the interim, you should refer specific questions on conformance to the regulations of the Office of Surface Mining to Mr. Robert Yuhnke, Office of the Regional Solicitor, Department of the Interior, P.O. Box 25007, Denver, Colorado, 80225, (telephone (303) 234-3175).

Sincerely yours,

Jackson W. Moffitt

Jackson W. Moffitt
Area Mining Supervisor

Enclosure