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File  
ACT/007/011

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE

Manti-LaSal National Forest  
350 East Main Street  
Price, Utah 84501

2820

July 24, 1980

State of Utah  
Dept. of Natural Resources  
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
1588 West North Temple  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116



Attn: Mary Ann Wright, Reclamation Biologist

DIVISION OF  
OIL GAS & MINING

RE: United States Fuel Company  
Act/007/011

Dear Ms. Wright:

The following considerations are offered in response to the Division's request (March 26, 1980) for Forest Service consultation concerning the nature and level of detail of fish and wildlife resources information to be provided by U.S. Fuel Company for its permit application pursuant to UMC 783.20 of the Utah Coal Mining Regulations.

Because the portals are on privately owned land and have been in operation for about 74 years, there should be little measurable additional impact on Forest fish and wildlife due to continued activity. However, continued mining of the area will continue to have effects upon surface resources.

One of our main concerns is that mining and subsidance may disrupt or have adverse effects on the surface and ground water systems. The water sources, should they change, could have considerable adverse effects on most all wildlife, perhaps to vegetation, range, as well as other uses.

These effects are not well known at this time, and could be very significant or perhaps may have little or no significant effects. Because of this unknown effect potential, the Manti-LaSal Forest has initiated, in cooperation with OSM, a requirement for a surface resource monitoring program. This program is intended to provide those datum necessary to evaluate effects of mining upon surface resources and assist in defining measures that would minimize these effects.

We have been working with Plateau on their monitoring plans and are very encouraged with their cooperation and their willingness to provide comprehensive monitor plans for subsidence and for hydrology. It is the Forest Service position that the federal agencies need to be involved and should provide base data for the portion of the monitor plan which includes wildlife and vegetation. We also feel that we should impliment and carry out these parts of the monitor plans.

Mitigating measures, should they become necessary, would be dependent upon impacts. In the case of water, perhaps replacement could be accomplished using ponds and/or pipelines. Other measures could be more difficult, such as mitigation of degradation of riparian habitats.

Sincerely,



for  
REED C. CHRISTENSEN  
Forest Supervisor