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DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS AND MINING

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INCOMING
C/007/013

26 January 2001

Mr. Dave Darby
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
1594 W. North Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5801

Dear Mr. Darby;

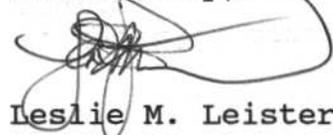
I am writing to express concern over the proposed Lila Canyon Coal Mine in Utah. The coal mine would overlap both an existing Wilderness Study Area, as well as newly inventoried BLM wilderness units. These areas are proposed for designation in America's Redrock Wilderness Act.

I have several concerns regarding this sadly-conceived operation:

1. Negative consequences of continued use of coal as an energy source.
2. A full Environmental Impact Statement is not available.
3. Industrial encroachments on world-class native and archeological sites (resources).
4. Destruction of native wildlife habitat, and wildlife.
5. Visual degradation: the area is classified by BLM as a Class III visual resource.
6. Air, ground, and water pollution from uncontrolled mining effluent and industrial wastes, subsidence and altered topography.
7. Increased truck traffic on already crowded highway 191 (the mine owners need to take responsibility for solving such problems, not the County).

More and more, regions like this are becoming national, and international, treasures. The increasing number of tourists to Utah, and their origins, bear this out. I know and love Desolation Canyon, and there is a higher and better use for this area than creating another Superfund site. Most of the time, industry = pollution. This is not "Progress". While it may be the history of the West, I hope you will not approve a mining permit.

Yours truly;



Leslie M. Leister