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State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor
Kathleen Clarke
Executive Director
Lowell P. Braxton
Division Director

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
PO Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801
801-538-5340
801-359-3940 (Fax)
801-538-7223 (TDD)

August 20, 2001

mailing list attached

~~David A. Lien
430 East Cheyenne Mt. Blvd., # 21
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80906~~

Re: Response to Letter of Concern, Lila Canyon Lease Tract Addition (Significant Revision) to Horse Canyon Mine, Horse Canyon Mine, UtahAmerican Energy, Inc., C/007/013-SR98(1), Outgoing File

Dear Mr. Lien:

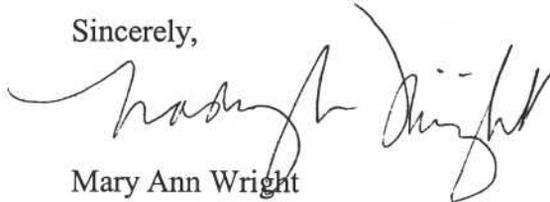
Thank you for your letter of concern about coal mining issues in the Lila Canyon area of Utah. The Division and its team of technical mine plan reviewers appreciates your concerns about wild and scenic places in Utah. Through the mandates of the Utah Coal Regulatory Program, we are charged with reviewing and permitting coal mines under an elaborate state program, which is often based in some respects upon federal regulations. This letter is to inform you that we have concluded our review of this mine revision, have made written findings, and have issued a revised permit to the applicant.

The revised permit, issued on July 27, 2001, for the existing Horse Canyon Mine, has added the Lila Canyon federal lease tract to the permit. This "Significant Revision" to the mine involves approximately 4,700 acres of existing leased coal, which is planned to be mined by underground mining methods. Approximately 28 acres of surface area, occupying a pinyon-juniper vegetation community to the south of the Lila Canyon mouth, will actually be disturbed for the mine facilities area. The Division is cognizant of the wilderness issues in this area and of the inventories that are currently pending and has considered these issues in its review. While none of the area currently planned for disturbance is within a Wilderness Study Area, a portion of the 28 acres is on a BLM wilderness inventory area.

The state of Utah has been delegated responsibility by the federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM) to implement Utah's coal mining and reclamation program. The Division is also charged with reclamation and enforcement duties at all Utah coal mine sites, and monitors these sites for compliance with the coal reclamation statute, regulations, and permit conditions. Information on this can be reviewed at our website. An annual program evaluation is made each year by OSM, and reported to Congress. The latest annual evaluation is posted at <http://dogm.nr.state.ut.us/mining/2000%20Utah%20Rpt.pdf>.

Again, we appreciate your taking the time to contact us with your comments. Our Coal Regulatory Program is designed to center around public/citizen input. If you have further questions, please contact me at 801-538-5306.

Sincerely,



Mary Ann Wright
Associate Director, Mining

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cc: Clyde Borrell, UtahAmerican Energy, Inc.
Tom Rasmussen, BLM
Jim Kohler, BLM
OGM Price Field Office
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David A. Lien
430 East Cheyenne Mt. Blvd., # 21
Colorado Springs Colorado 80906

Elizabeth Hickman
P.O. Box 3249
Jackson Wyoming 83001

Fred Goodsell
P.O. Box 750262
Torrey Utah 84775

Jan Ellen Burton
1340 Gilmer Drive
Salt Lake City Utah 84105

Ken Maloney & Julie Ford-Maloney
16222 Monterey Lane # 223
Huntington Beach California 92649

Leslie M. Leister
11 Cross Keys Road
Baltimore Maryland 21210

Mark M. Giese
1520 Bryn Mawr Ave.
Racine Wisconsin 53403-3606

Paul Slaton
210 Meadow Lark
Gunnison Colorado 81230

Richard Davis
P.O Box 23
Oliver Springs Tennessee 37840

Josiah K. Eardley
P.O Box 554
Emery Utah 84502