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# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Utah State Office  
P.O. Box 45155  
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155  
<http://www.blm.gov>



IN REPLY REFER TO:  
SL-066145  
(UT-923)  
3484

RECEIVED  
OCT 27 2006

OCT 26 2006

DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

Utah Coal Program  
Ms. Pamela Grubaugh-Littig  
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
1594 West North Temple, Street, Suite 1210  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

Re: Lila Canyon Portals, Federal Coal Lease SL-066145

Dear Ms. Littig:

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) considers the open portals at Lila Canyon a Public Safety Issue. We would like you to move forward on a closure strategy as part of your mining permit with the company and have BLM participate in developing a closure methodology as soon as possible. Portals that are not sealed properly have the potential of spontaneous combustion of the coal, low oxygen around the seals (as has already been found during an inspection of the site), unstable roof conditions (as is witnessed at this site) and a generally unsafe area for the public to be around.

BLM has found and confirmed that the portals are on an existing Federal Coal lease SL-066145. The federal lease requires that all regulations under 43 CFR 3400 be met. BLM requires that in order to provide for permanent abandonment, to adequately protect the coal resource, and ensure public health and safety, the portals in Lila Canyon should be back filled without delay. If the lessee would like to propose another similar type of closure, BLM will need to review and approve the closure method.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Stan Perkes of my staff at 801-539-4036.

James F. Kohler  
Chief, Solid Minerals Branch

Cc: PFO  
Lila Canyon Mine File

*Income*  
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*Copy Skye, Ann,*  
*Hayden, Wayne W.*