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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE  
Manti-LaSal National Forest  
350 East Main Street  
Price, Utah 84501

2820

September 21, 1978



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

Attention: Ron Daniels

Dear Mr. Daniels:

We have reviewed a Special Use Permit Application for Swisher Coal Company to install sedimentation pond facilities at the Huntington Canyon #4 Coal Mine, in compliance with OSM Regulation Public Law 95-87.

We have recently completed the property line survey at the Swisher #4 Mine in Mill Canyon, and have determined the common boundary between Federal and private land. The Special Use Application was submitted to us before the survey was completed. It was not known at that time exactly where the boundary line was located. This proposed facility is not on Federal land and consequently is not within our area of approval, except as it may affect Federal lands.

There is a problem associated with this proposal. From our on-the-ground review, it appears that the location of the siltation structure is questionable. This structure would be classified according to its height, hazard, and impoundment, as any other dam would be. It appears that its class would be "B" and the hazard would be "High". The proposal does not meet Forest Service Standards. The rock core would not be permitted, the dam must be keyed to the native material, and the dam faces are too steep. Dam top width is a function of height, and must be so constructed. The proposed location is also poor; so poor, in fact, as to preclude conventional construction practices. It will be very difficult to secure an earthen embankment to the solid rock sandstone ledge located on the left abutment of the proposed structure. There are enough questions in this proposal that we propose an on-the-ground review with your office, the Forest Service, and a representative of Swisher Coal Company.

Another, but related, problem is with the drainage through the site. A bypass structure was provided in the initial planning so a flood would

not carry the coal debris from the yarding area to the canyon floor.  
This structure appears to have been rendered inoperable, and something must be done to provide for the unforeseen flood.

There is a third concern at the switchback concerning the ditching of the roadway and the debris from that construction and maintenance effort.

We propose a day during the week of October 2nd through the 6th for this meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "William H. Deby". The signature is written in dark ink and has a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

for  
REED C. CHRISTENSEN  
Forest Supervisor