

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
Manti-LaSal National Forest
599 West Price River Drive
Price, Utah 84501

2820

November 18, 1981



Division of Oil, Gas, & Mining
ATTN: Sally Hefer
1588 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

RE: Natomas Trail Mountain
Coal Company Culvert and
Sediment Pond Modification

Gentlemen:

The Forest Service's major concern is that continued adequate transportation facilities be provided through Cottonwood Canyon. The area of the proposed culverting of approximately 820 feet of Cottonwood Creek is within one of the narrowest and most restrictive sections of the canyon. The property on either side of the existing road is held in fee. We recommend that any modification to the mine sites on either side of the road and creek provide for the future upgrading of FDR 50040 to a subgrade width of 50 to 62 feet.

In regards to the specific design for culverting Cottonwood Creek the following concerns and recommendations are provided:

1. Because a taper section is used to reduce pipe size, a trash-rack has been provided, however, a trash-rack is effective only as long as it is maintained, therefore, the culvert should be removed as part of the reclamation plan at the conclusion of mining.
2. The inlet structure drawings should show the dimension from inlet invert to top of structure. This height should exceed the headwater depth required for the 50-year discharge by the required freeboard usually a one-foot minimum.
3. The trash-rack opening of 27 inches seems excessive to prevent large debris from entering and blocking the culvert in the tapered section.
4. The conveyances of a 66-inch corrugated culvert at the design slopes could require additional head at the inlet to move the design discharge.

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DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

5. The outlet velocities will be on the order of 22.5 feet per second. A more detailed design of an outlet energy dissipator should be required. Using riprap on the order of 3 feet in diameter for bottom and 4 feet in diameter on the sides, in a stilling basin approximately 36 feet long by 30 feet wide would be necessary to control scour.

The design element of the proposed sedimentation pond meets the Forest Service requirements for small dams for the administrative and hazard classifications identified by the height, storage capacity, and downstream values. Again, our concern is how the location and construction of the proposed sediment pond will effect transportation facilities through the canyon.

We would recommend Natomas Trail Mountain be required to identify an adequate corridor and coordinate with the other fee land owners the platting and granting of a easement to the U.S. Forest Service. This would resolve our major concerns for the present mine plans on either side of FDR 50040.

Sincerely,



for
REED C. CHRISTENSEN
Forest Supervisor