

AOT/015/009



United States Department of the Interior
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
Reclamation and Enforcement
BROOKS TOWERS
1020 15TH STREET
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

March 20, 1987

Dr. Dianne Nielson, Director
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

Dear Dr. Nielson:

The Federal Programs Division (FPD) has reviewed the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGGM) draft decision document for the Trail Mountain mine Tract II revision area and has the following comments.

1. Page 5 of the technical analysis indicates that "the mine currently experiences inflow of 57 gpm, a rate that is projected to increase to 130-200 gpm upon development of Tract II coal reserves." The recently received PHC for the Tract II revision (Appendix 7-F, page 3-1) indicates that Cottonwood Creek has an average annual flow of 70,700 acre feet. Page 8, of the CHIA indicates that a depletion in Cottonwood Creek of between 0.2 and 0.4 percent will result. Assuming a mid-point of the above projection, (i.e., 0.3 percent stream depletion) this translates to a net annual depletion of 212 acre feet. This depletion estimate conflicts with the estimate of 0.88 acre feet discussed with Utah DOGM staff on March 20, 1987. The CHIA and mine plan must agree on the estimated annual depletion.
2. The fourteen concerns identified by the U. S. Forest Service, Manti La-Sal National Forest on March 10, 1987, must be addressed. Many of these concerns are not significant; however, they must all be addressed to the satisfaction of the Forest Service before FPD can recommend approval of the Tract II mining plan modification to the Secretary.

If you have any questions regarding these concerns please contact Richard Holbrook or Vernon Maldonado at (303) 844-2451.

Sincerely,

Ranvir Singh
Ranvir Singh, Chief
Federal Lands Branch

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OIL, GAS & MINING