

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Manti-LaSal  
National Forest

599 West Price River Drive  
Price, Utah 84501

Reply to: 2820

Date: March 10, 1988

Lowell Braxton  
State of Utah Natural Resources  
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
355 West North Temple  
3 Triad Center, Suite 350  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

**RECEIVED**  
MAR 14 1988

DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING

Dear Lowell:

We have reviewed Amended Plans, PAP Amendment, Second Mining East of Escarpment in Cottonwood Canyon, Beaver Creek Coal Company, Trail Mountain #9 Mine, ACT/015/009-88A, Folder #2, Emery County, Utah.

In our review of the original amendment, which was submitted to the Division on January 28, 1988, we discussed with your office that it was not clear whether or not the proposed limited second mining would involve both State and National Forest System lands in the permit area. The Division then requested clarification from Beaver Creek Coal Company.

The amended plans, referenced in the first paragraph of this letter were submitted in response. Revised Figure 3-6 shows that the proposed second mining to take place immediately involves only State lands (cross-hatched area). According to John Whitehead of your office, the Division intends to approve the proposal on State lands as soon as possible to allow the limited pillar recovery to take place. Since this involves State lands, we have no objection.

We are, however, concerned that the revised map shows that limited second mining under the escarpment is also proposed for National Forest System lands in the permit area.

The Manti-LaSal National Forest will not consent to the proposed limited second mining under the escarpment on National Forest System lands at this time. As you know, we have requested that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) review the proposal and advise us as to the potential for escarpment failure if the proposal is approved.

We will review this decision based on the information received from the BLM and on the results of the limited second mining on State lands. We strongly encourage the Division to require Beaver Creek Coal Company to monitor the escarpment area using survey prisms and oblique photographs. As you know, very little information is presently available as to the reaction of the escarpment from mining. Additional demonstrated information is needed upon which to base future decisions.

Figure 3-6 must be revised to show that only first mining will take place under the escarpment on National Forest System lands. The line separating where first and second mining will take place is shown as a closely spaced dashed line. This needs to be relabeled as shown on the original map in the approved Mining and Reclamation Plan.

Please send two copies of all amendments and modifications to the Forest. As you know, we have two copies of the Tract I Mine Plan and one copy of the Tract II Mine Plan. Please send us another copy of Figure 3-6 submitted with the amended plans. When the two tracts are combined, we will require two copies of the plans and all materials in order to facilitate timely reviews in our Supervisor's Office and Ferron Ranger District Office.

If you have any questions, please contact the Forest Supervisor's Office in Price, Utah.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G. A. Morris".

for  
GEORGE A. MORRIS  
Forest Supervisor