

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest Service  
Manti-LaSal National Forest  
599 West Price River Dr.  
Price, Utah 84501  
Caring for the Land and Serving People

Reply to: 2820

Date: February 16, 1988

11-04-10-0000

**RECEIVED**  
FEB 19 1988

Gene Nodine  
BLM - Moab District  
P.O. Box 970  
Moab, Utah 84532

DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING

Dear Mr. Nodine:

On February 5, 1988, we received a letter from the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM) transmitting a copy of 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, to the Forest for review. Approval of the amendment regarding National Forest System lands requires Forest Service consent.

In the amendment, Beaver Creek Coal Company proposes to conduct limited second mining under the canyon escarpment. The original plans stated that second mining would not occur east of the escarpment. Portions of both Tract 1 and Tract 2 involve mining under the escarpment on National Forest System lands as well as State and private lands.

According to UDOGM, a copy of the amendment was sent to your office for consent regarding maximum economic recovery. The amendment contains a geotechnical analysis in support of the proposal.

As you are aware, the involved Federal coal leases contain a stipulation which requires specific measures for the protection of escarpments from failure. We, therefore, request that the BLM review the amendment and geotechnical report and determine if the amendment adequately provides for escarpment protection. Long-term as well as life-of-mine protection must be considered.

Please advise this office as to your findings. DOGM has requested comments by February 22, 1988. If additional time for your review is required, please notify us as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

*1st* George A. Morris *RVA*

GEORGE A. MORRIS  
Forest Supervisor

cc: L. Braxton, DOGM  
J. Dryden, BLM, San Rafael Resource Area  
D-2  
C. Reed