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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Moab District
P.O. Box 970
Moab, Utah 84532

IN REPLY REFER TO:

File ACT/015/009 #2
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3482
U-082996
U-64375
(U-065c)

APR 12 1991

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APR 15 1991

DIVISION OF
OIL GAS & MINING

Ms. Pamela Grubaugh-Littig
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
355 West North Temple Street
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

Dear Ms. Grubaugh-Littig:

On August 13, 1990, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received a copy of the permit application package (PAP) from your office entitled "Federal Lease Tract Addition, Beaver Creek Coal Company, Trail Mountain No. 9 Mine, ACT/015/009". This PAP requires our response in two areas. Since a portion of the lands applied for are located on BLM surface, a response as to the completeness of post mining land uses and protection of non-mineral resources is required. In a letter to your office dated October 28, 1990, we stated that the PAP is complete in regard to these items. The other area requiring our review is the resource recovery and protection plan (R2P2). Our review is discussed below.

Beaver Creek Coal Company (BCCC) plans to add Federal lease U-64375 to their permit area at the Trail Mountain No. 9 Mine. The mine plan calls for extending the current mine workings south and west into the new lease. All access to this lease will be from existing mine works and no new surface facilities will be constructed. The R2P2 details the planned underground mine workings and extraction (room and pillar) methods for this new lease as required by the mineral leasing laws.

Although complete pillar extraction is contemplated, previous experience at the mine under similar circumstances has not met with success. These circumstances involve mining at depths of around 2000 feet and a massive sandstone strata above the immediate roof that is not conducive to caving. For this reason, the BLM expects to approve several changes until the optimal recovery is obtained.

Lease terms specify protection of cliffs from mine-induced subsidence failure. In reviewing the plan, one planned room and pillar panel falls under the area of influence of potential escarpment failure due to subsidence caused by mining activities. To avoid potential escarpment failure, the last panel on the eastern boundary of T18S, R6E, section 1, will be limited to first mining only in order to leave pillars of sufficient size to prevent caving of the strata (see attached map). With this addition, the plan is adequate and technically complete.

We have determined that the R2P2 is in compliance with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, the regulatory provisions of 43 CFR 3480, Federal lease terms and conditions, and the requirement for achievement of maximum economic recovery of Federal coal. Therefore, we recommend approval of the R2P2 for the new lease.

If you have any questions, please contact Stephen Falk or Gary Johnson in our Price Coal Office at (801) 637-4584.

Sincerely yours,



for Assistant District Manager
Mineral Resources

Enclosure:
Projected Mine Map

cc: SD, Utah (U-921), w/enclosure
DM, Moab (U-065), w/enclosure
Beaver Creek Coal Company, w/enclosure
Manti-LaSal National Forest, Price, w/enclosure