



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING

Reclamation and Enforcement

BROOKS TOWERS

1020 15TH STREET

DENVER, COLORADO 80202

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

MAR 3 1981

RECEIVED

MAR 08 1981

Mr. James W. Smith, Jr.
 Coordinator of Mined Land Development
 Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
 1588 West North Temple
 Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

DIVISION OF
 OIL, GAS & MINING

Dear Jim:

In their letter dated January 29, 1981, Utah Power and Light (UP&L) notified this office of their pending application for a lease modification to the Beehive Mine (Federal Coal Lease SL-066116). UP&L also requested a modification to the permit area for this mine. Our review suggests that the plan may be approved as soon as BLM has approved the lease modification. I wanted to provide your office with a summary of our technical analysis such that if the BLM approval is received, we can expeditiously forward joint approval to UP&L.

The lease modification would increase the size of this lease by 120 acres in order to allow mining of coal in a peninsula-shaped area (see attached map) which is only accessible through the existing Beehive Mine. The applicant has estimated that this area contains approximately 300,000 tons of recoverable coal from the Blind Canyon Seam. The U.S. Geological Survey made a determination that the coal reserve would be bypassed if prompt approval to mine this coal is not given. The 120-acre expansion would be mined as a continuation of the existing underground Beehive Mine. All surface facilities required for coal production and processing are presently in operation. No increase in production is expected.

Based on our review, I am prepared to recommend approval of this permit modification. Upon receiving notice from OSM that BLM has approved the lease modification, we can take final action. This lease modification is scheduled to be approved by the BLM on or about March 2, 1981. Both the Geological Survey and the Manti LaSal National Forest have performed an Environmental Assessment Report on this proposal and have required the following stipulations:

1. No surface breakouts or new surface disturbances;
2. Any future proposed surface disturbing activities must be evaluated by the environmental process to determine acceptability and approval;
3. All intact barriers of undisturbed coal must be left in place to prevent escarpment failure due to subsidence; and
4. The subsidence and hydrologic monitoring system must be extended to include the permit modification.

No additional stipulations are required since UP&L has already committed itself to both the Standard and Special Stipulations of my February 28, 1980 approval for mining in the "graben area" of the Deseret and Beehive Mines. The response to these Special Stipulations are still under review by OSM. The cultural resource sampling required in my February 28 approval showed that there are no sites that may be sensitive to the effects of subsidence; therefore, no additional sampling is required.

As soon as we are informed by BLM that the lease modification is approved, we will notify you so that you may proceed with action on the modification to the permit area.

If you have any questions in regard to this review, please contact John Nadolski of my staff (303/837-3773).

Sincerely,

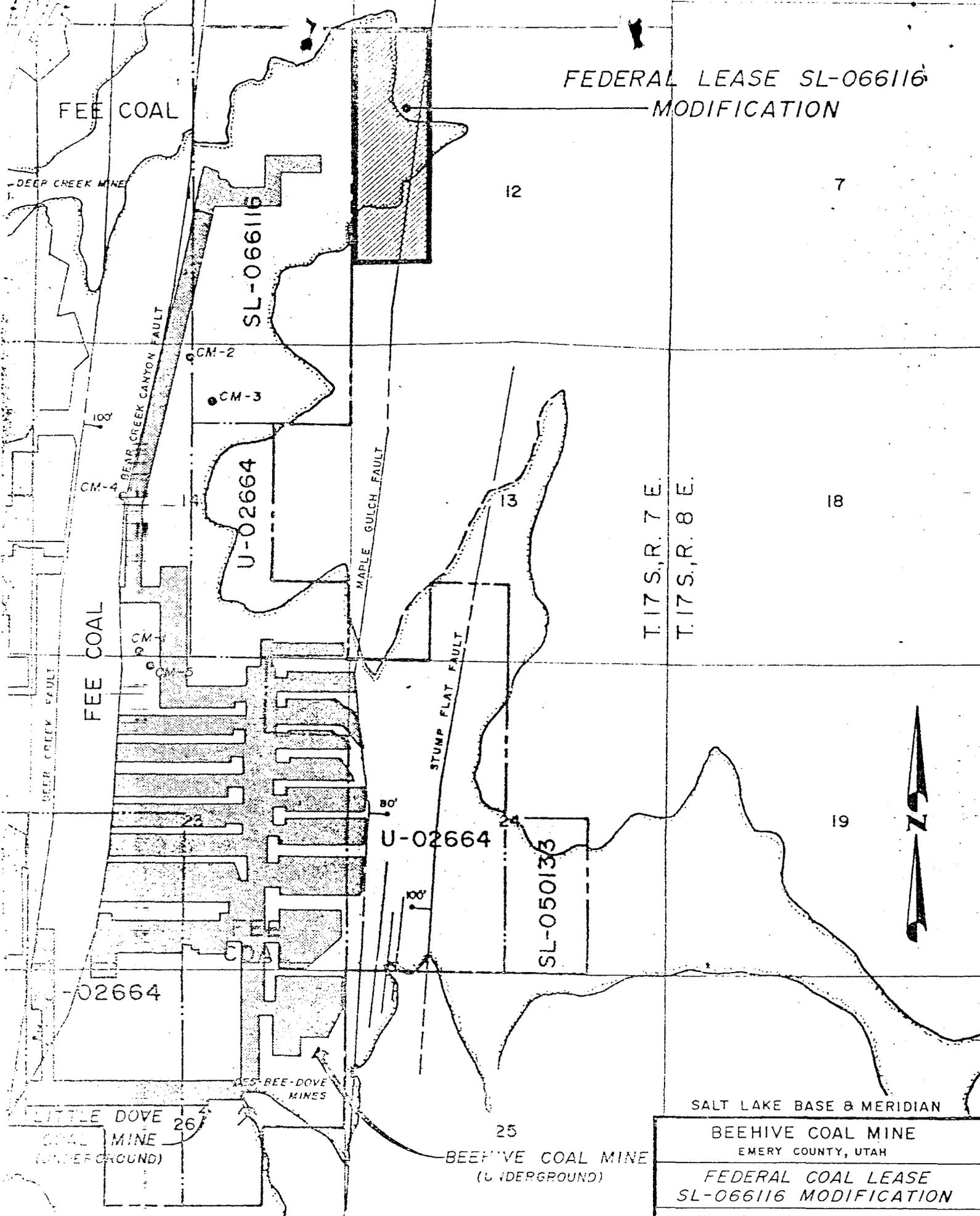


DONALD A. CRANE

Attachment

cc: Moffitt, USGS, SLC
Trippe, USGS, Denver
Christensen, FS, Price

FEDERAL LEASE SL-066116
MODIFICATION



T. 17 S., R. 7 E.
T. 17 S., R. 8 E.

SALT LAKE BASE & MERIDIAN

BEEHIVE COAL MINE EMERY COUNTY, UTAH
FEDERAL COAL LEASE SL-066116 MODIFICATION
UTAH POWER & LIGHT COMPANY DEPARTMENT OF MINING & EXPLORATION
SCALE: 1" = 2000'
DATE: MARCH 17, 1980