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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Manti-La Sal  
National Forest

599 West Price River Dr.  
Price, Utah 84501  
(801) 637-2817

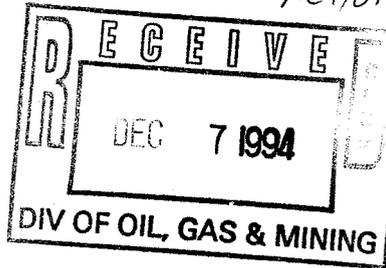
*Pam*

File Code: 2820-4

Date: December 5, 1994

*ACT/015/017 #2*

Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
ATTN: Mr. Lowell P. Braxton  
355 West North Temple  
3 Triad Center, Suite 350  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203



*Copy Pam*

Dear Lowell:

We have been advised by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that the terms and conditions of Federal Coal Lease SL-066116 are due for readjustment on June 1, 1995. The BLM regulations at 43 CFR 3451 require that all coal leases issued prior to August 4, 1976, be subject to readjustment at the end of the first 20-year period and at the end of each 10-year period thereafter. This 520-acre lease was originally issued to Samuel K. Howard on June 1, 1955, and is currently held by PacifiCorp. It was last readjusted on June 1, 1979, and was modified on March 10, 1981. Lease terms and conditions can be updated or changed by the BLM during readjustment.

As the surface management agency of the federal lands involved in this lease, it is the role of the Forest Service to address management concerns and public issues for surface resources through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. When finalized, the NEPA documentation and stipulations will be submitted to the BLM.

Because you responded to our initial project scoping during February 1994, we are sending you a copy of the Environmental Assessment for Lease SL-066116 so that you may review it and make comments during the 30-day predecisional period. It is my intent to choose Alternative C, which would be to readjust the lease with the special stipulations listed in the Manti-La Sal National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. These stipulations are listed in Appendix B of the Environmental Assessment.

Please provide any comments that you may have on the proposal by 5:00 pm, January 4, 1995. If you have any questions, please contact Dale Harber at the above address, or call (801) 637-2817.

Sincerely,

*Deane H. Zeller*  
For

DEANE H. ZELLER  
Acting Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE READJUSTMENT OF

FEDERAL COAL LEASE SL-066116

Emery County, Utah

USDA - Forest Service, Region 4  
Manti-La Sal National Forest  
Price Ranger District

Responsible Official: Deane H. Zeller, Acting Forest Supervisor  
USDA - Forest Service  
Manti-La Sal National Forest  
599 W. Price River Drive  
Price, Utah 84523

For Further Information Contact: Charles J. Jankiewicz, District Ranger  
USDA - Forest Service  
Price Ranger District  
599 W. Price River Drive  
Price, Utah 84501

Environmental Assessment  
for the Readjustment of  
Federal Coal Lease SL-066116

I. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION

A. Introduction

Federal Coal Lease SL-066116 will be subject to readjustment of terms and conditions by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on June 1, 1995. According to the Federal Coal Leasing Amendments Act of 1976, all leases issued prior to August 4, 1976, are subject to readjustment at the end of the first 20-year term and at the end of each 10-year period thereafter. Federal Coal Lease SL-066116 was issued June 1, 1955, was readjusted effective July 1, 1979, and modified on March 10, 1981. PacifiCorp is the current lessee.

The BLM is the responsible agency for coal leasing actions. The Forest Service, as the surface management agency, has authority to consent or not consent to the lease readjustment and to impose such stipulations as necessary with respect to the use and protection of non-mineral interests. The Forest Supervisor must decide whether or not to consent to readjustment of this lease by BLM and to determine what special stipulations need to be included in the readjusted lease.

B. Authorizing Actions

Leasing and development are under the authority of the following authorizing actions: The Mineral Leasing Act of February 25, 1920, as amended; the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976; the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) of 1977; the Federal Coal Leasing Amendments Act of 1976, as amended; regulations: Title 43 CFR Group 3400, and Title 30 CFR Group 700; and the Manti-La Sal National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (FLRMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), 1986.

This environmental assessment is tiered to the Manti-La Sal National Forest FLRMP and FEIS. The lease area was previously evaluated in the Environmental Analysis Report/Part 23 Technical Examination for Federal Leases U-02292, SL-070645, and SL-066116 (1976) and Environmental Assessment for Modification of Federal Coal Lease SL-066116 (1981).

C. Description of the Lease

The 520-acre lease is located on East Mountain, entirely within the Price Ranger District of the Manti-La Sal National Forest, in Emery County, Utah, with the following legal description:

T. 17 S., R. 7 E., SLM, Utah  
Sec. 11, E1/2  
Sec. 12, W1/2 NW1/4, NW1/4 SW1/4  
Sec. 14, N1/2 NE1/4

The lease is a bounded by other leases held by PacifiCorp, unleased Federal lands, and private land (see Maps 1 and 2).

D. Description of the Coal Underground Workings, and Relationship to Adjacent Workings

Lease SL-066116 is within the permit Area of the Des-Bee-Dove Mine (see Map 2), which has been inactive since 1987. It was originally issued to Samuel K. Howard on June 1, 1955. The lease was later held by various mining companies, and is currently held by PacifiCorp.

The Des-Bee-Dove Mine surface facilities are located approximately 2 miles south of the southern edge of lease SL-066116. There are no surface facilities within lease SL-066116, and none are planned. ✓

The Forest Service prepared an Environmental Analysis Report/Part 23 Technical Examination (EAR/TE) for the readjustment of Federal leases U-02292, SL-070645, and SL-066116 in 1976 and an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the modification of Federal Coal Lease SL-066116 in 1981. Operations on this lease have been authorized under the approved Des-Bee-Dove Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP). Subsidence and hydrologic monitoring are being conducted under the MRP. These documents are contained in the Forest Service project files and can be referred to for additional information.

E. Issues and Concerns

The Interdisciplinary (ID) Team evaluated the environmental documents listed in Section D., and identified no new issues. The issues are:

1. Surface-disturbing activities could adversely affect area resources such as visual quality, surface water, timber, range, watershed, and wildlife habitat.
2. Mining-induced subsidence could adversely affect surface and ground water, escarpments, soils, vegetation, visual resources, wildlife habitat, and livestock grazing.

These resources will be described individually in Chapter III, and the potential impacts will be described by resource in Chapter IV.

General public comments were solicited through a notice in the Sun Advocate newspaper on December 14, 1993. Specific comments on the proposed action were also solicited by letters sent directly to the individuals and organizations listed in Appendix A. The following comments were received:





1. Kent R. Petersen, Chairman of the Emery County Commissioners, is supportive of coal mining for the local economy, but wants to retain Forest Service Stipulations 7 and 17 to protect water resources.
2. Dixie K. Thompson, an Emery County Commissioner, does not object to the lease.
3. Both the Emery Water Conservancy District and the Huntington-Cleveland Irrigation Company are concerned that ground water is being intercepted in the mines and discharged through the portal, creating a diversion of water from one drainage system to another.
4. Interwest Mining Company, a PacifiCorp subsidiary and holder of lease SL-066116, has no objection to applying the standard Forest Service Stipulations. They asked that their request for relinquishment of 480 acres of this lease be considered in the analysis.

These issues are addressed in Chapters III and IV, and the stipulations necessary to prevent or mitigate adverse impacts are listed in Appendix B.

F. Federal Permits, Licenses, etc.

The Des-Bee-Dove Mine has been permitted under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement and the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining. Other required permits have been secured by PacifiCorp under their approved Mining and Reclamation Plan for the mine.

G. Negative Declaration

The ID team has determined that the readjustment will not cause adverse impacts on the following: prime or unique rangelands, wetlands, timberlands, or farmlands; known cultural or paleontological resources; floodplains; alluvial valley floors; or known threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant or animal species.

II. DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES

A. Alternative A - Readjustment of the Lease with No Forest Service Special Stipulations

Under this alternative, the lease would be readjusted without any special Forest Service stipulations. This alternative is not considered to be viable under direction of the FLRMP and considering that special stipulations already included in Section 30 of the lease were the basis for requiring some provisions included in the approved

Mining and Reclamation Plan. It will, however, be discussed as a base for comparison of the effects of the Alternatives.

B. Alternative B - Readjust the Lease with Existing Forest Service Special Stipulations (No Action)

Under this alternative the Bureau of Land Management would readjust the lease without the addition of new Forest Service special stipulations. The Forest Service special stipulations currently in the lease would remain.

C. Alternative C - Readjustment of the Lease with Existing and Additional Forest Service Stipulations

Under this alternative, Forest Service consent to readjustment of the lease would be conditioned upon revision of the existing stipulations to be consistent with the wording of the stipulations as listed in the FLRMP (Stipulations 3, 6, and 7) and the addition of other FLRMP stipulations (numbers 1-2, 4-5, and 8-17) needed to mitigate the issues and concerns. These stipulations are listed as Appendix B.

D. Comparison of Alternatives

The following chart has been generated to display a comparison of alternatives relative to the identified issues and concerns. The issues and concerns are listed as resource elements. The ratings are high, moderate, or low, to display the relative potential for impact of each alternative. A brief explanation is also provided. Refer to Chapter IV for a more detailed discussion of impacts for each alternative.

Resource	Alt. A	Alt. B	Alt. C
Topography, Geology, Seismicity	Moderate potential for escarpment failure.	Moderate potential for escarpment failure.	Low potential for escarpment failure.
Surface Water	Low. Only two ephemeral drainages are on the lease.	Low. Only two ephemeral drainages are on the lease.	Low. Only two ephemeral drainages are on the lease.
Ground Water	Moderate. Low potential for damage, but no mitigation required.	Moderate. Low potential for damage, but no mitigation required.	Low. Potential for damage, but water replacement is required (Stipulation #17).

Soils	Moderate, due to potential erosion at escarpment failures.	Moderate, due to potential erosion at escarpment failures.	Low. Escarpment failures not allowed.
Vegetation, Range, Wildlife	Moderate, due to potential water impacts.	Moderate, due to potential water impacts.	Low. Water replacement is required (Stipulation #17).
Timber	Moderate, due to potential water impacts.	Moderate, due to potential water impacts.	Low. Water replacement is required (Stipulation #17).
Visual Quality	Low, due to remoteness of area. Meets VQO's.	Low, due to remoteness of area. Meets VQO's.	Low, due to remoteness of area. Meets VQO's.
Surface Improvements	Low, due to few improvements.	Low, due to few improvements.	Low, due to few improvements, and required mitigation.
Cultural Resources	Low. None known in area. Protected by Federal Law.	Low. None known in area. Protected by Federal Law.	Low. None know in area. Protected by Federal Law and Stipulation #1.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The following is a description of the affected environment. The description has been divided into individual resource elements for clarity. A more detailed description of the discussed resources can be found in the Des-Bee-Dove Mining and Reclamation Plan and the previously written environmental assessments (USDA - Forest Service, 1976 and 1981). The following sections summarize the previous data, and elaborate only on new or changed conditions which are relevant to this proposed lease readjustment.

The extreme northwestern corner of the lease which lies in Deer Creek is included in the Leasable Minerals Area (MMA) Management Unit as designated in the FLRMP. Management emphasis is for leasable minerals development. The remainder of the lease area is within a Range (RNG) Management Unit where emphasis is on forage production for wildlife and livestock. The management prescriptions for these areas are found on pages III-64 through III-66 and III-80 through III-82 of the FLRMP.

A. Topography, Geology, and Seismicity

The EAR/TE (1976), Sections III.1 and III.2, and EA for the lease addition (1981), cover these subjects in detail. The specific issue raised during the scoping process which deals with geology is the potential for mining-induced escarpment failures. A review of the topographic map, aerial photographs, and a site visit shows that the escarpments on the lease are in the form of steep slopes. There are no cliffs. Most of the lease has already been mined, and there are no surficial subsidence impacts.

PacifiCorps's subsidence monitoring over the area indicates 2 to 8 feet of subsidence, including areas of burned coal outside the mined areas. Mining-induced subsidence probably triggered crushing of the clinkers in the burned areas.

The entire geologic section above the coal seam has the potential to yield fossils. The most likely fossiliferous zones are the lower portion of the Blackhawk Formation and the North Horn Formation.

B. Water

1. Surface Water

Normal annual precipitation ranges from 16 to 20 inches within the lease area. Lease SL-066116 is located in an area of steep, rocky slopes with no definite stream channels, within the drainages of Deer Creek and Maple Gulch, ephemeral tributaries to Huntington Creek. The soil mantle is not sufficiently developed to significantly contribute to ground water recharge. Rainfall interception and infiltration rates are low. Consequently the majority of the precipitation runs off and is rapidly delivered to drainage systems.

The lease area contributes marginal quantities of water to flash floods that originate in Maple Gulch. The total hydrologic influence of the lease area is limited due to its relatively small size and dispersion into two drainages.

The lower canyon areas are rocky and poorly vegetated, with low rainfall interception and infiltration rates. Thus the majority of incident precipitation runs off and is rapidly delivered to drainage systems. The implication is that development in these lower portions of the drainages would have little effect on increasing flood potentials over those that normally exist.

2. Ground Water

Most of the ground water in the East Mountain area is in transient storage. The source is precipitation that falls on East Mountain and the adjacent uplands. Most of the precipitation is consumed by

evapotranspiration at or near the place of fall, but some runs off in streams, and a small amount seeps into the rocks to become ground water recharge. Part of the recharge enters perched aquifers and part ultimately enters aquifers in the main zone of saturation. Water discharging from the preched aquifers supports the flow of widely scattered upland springs and seeps. Water discharging from aquifers in the main zone of saturation supports the base flow of Huntington and Cottonwood Creeks and their larger tributaries.

The Starpoint-Blackhawk regional aquifer, which is located at or near the coal seam, is not saturated within lease SL-066116.

There are no known seeps or springs within lease SL-066116, but ground water from the lease area may contribute to springs in surrounding areas.

#### C. Soils

The soils have developed on steep, strongly dissected ridge side slopes. The dominant soils have developed from the colluvium whose parent materials are principally sandstone. They range in depth from very shallow to moderately deep. Typically, these soils have loamy sand surface horizons over gravelly and cobbly, sandy substrata. Up to 50 percent of these slopes are rock outcrop or very shallow soils. These soils have moderate inherent erosion hazards and are subject to dry creep and dry mantle slides. They have low revegetation potential and are strongly sensitive to surface disturbance.

#### D. Vegetation, Range, and Wildlife Habitat

The lease area is within the Gentry Mountain Cattle and Horse Allotment, but is classified as non-range because of slope and inaccessibility. Understory vegetation in the timbered areas includes snowberry, twinflower, blueberry, and mitewort, and Kentucky bluegrass, crested wheatgrass, western yarrow, orange sneezeweed, big sagebrush, and twistleaf rabbitbrush in the sage-grass communities.

The area provides both summer and winter habitat for deer and elk. Other small game and non-game species may inhabit parts of the lease. No threatened or endangered animal species are known to inhabit the area, but the endangered American peregrine falcon has been sighted in several locations throughout the region. Fractures in the outcropping rocks may provide nesting and hibernating habitat for spotted bats. Golden eagles, a species of special interest, may use the rock outcrop areas for nesting, and probably hunt in the area.

A Biological Evaluation was prepared for this lease readjustment, and a determination was made that there would be no effect on proposed, threatened, endangered, or sensitive fauna or flora species or their habitat.

E. Timber

The lease contains areas of Englemann spruce, pinyon-juniper, subalpine fir, Douglas fir, and areas of unproductive lands. The steep terrain and inaccessibility make the area unsuitable for timber harvest.

F. Visual Quality

The lease area has a Visual Quality Objective (VQO) of partial retention, where man's activities may be evident but remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape. It is viewed in background from the town of Huntington and in middleground from the Huntington Canyon Scenic Byway. The only recreational use in the immediate area of the lease is for hunting during the fall, mostly for deer and elk.

G. Surface Improvements

There are no Forest Development Roads on the lease area, but one road approaches the area from the southwest to provide access to the general area. Range improvements are limited to fences. At least one survey corner monument is known to be present on the lease.

H. Cultural Resources

Two 10-acre areas within the lease area were surveyed during 1980 as a part of a 2,705 acre survey on East Mountain to determine cultural resource site density and to assess the potential for the disruption of sites by mining-related subsidence (AERC, 1980). No cultural resources were found on lease SL-066116, but there have been finds of cultural resources within the general area.

No surface-disturbing activities or facilities are currently planned for the lease area. If such activities or facilities are proposed in the future, another environmental analysis would be required to evaluate the proposal.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Readjustment of the lease in itself would not result in any environmental impacts, but the terms of the lease could have an effect on how much coal is mined, how operations will proceed, and to what degree effects will be mitigated. The mining operation has already been permitted as a part of the Des-Bee-Dove Mine, which has been operating since 1955.

The effects of the mining operation have been assessed in the Environmental Analysis Report/Part 23 Technical Examination (EAR/TE) for the readjustment of Federal leases U-02292, SL-070645, and SL-066116 in 1976 and an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the modification of Federal Coal Lease SL-066116 in 1981. These documents discuss the existing and potential effects from mining on this lease. Mining operations were permitted and are regulated under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 and associated Federal and State regulations and programs. Facilities have been designed and constructed in accordance with required standards. Monitoring has shown that the effects of mining, to date, are consistent with those predicted in the referenced environmental documents.

A. Alternative A - Readjustment of the Lease with No Forest Service Special Stipulations

1. Short-Term and Residual Impacts

a. Topography, Geology, and Seismicity

It is expected that mining and subsidence could have an effect upon ground and surface water, soils, vegetation, wildlife habitat, and surface improvements as discussed below. Previous mining within the lease area has produced 2 to 8 feet of subsidence. Under this alternative, there are no stipulations to preclude subsidence which could damage surface resources. However, most of the coal within the lease has been mined, so there is only a moderate potential for future damage to the surface.

b. Water

Surface Water

Mining-induced subsidence could divert water which would have flowed into the Maple Gulch area, and the sediment load could be increased as the subsided areas are often more susceptible to erosion. However, the effects would probably be minimal due to the small drainage area on the lease.

Ground Water

Subsidence could alter ground water flow and conditions. Although there are no springs within this lease, ground water originating within or passing through the lease may contribute to springs in the area or to the base flow of Huntington and Cottonweed Creeks and their larger tributaries.

c. Soils

Mining-induced subsidence could result in increased erosion and additional soil loss.

d. Vegetation, Range, and Wildlife Habitat

Any impacts to water resources (described above) would impact vegetation and range conditions, which would ultimately impact wildlife habitat. Subsidence of the rock outcrops could either damage or improve habitat for spotted bats.

e. Timber

Mining-related impacts to water resources would ultimately impact timber resources. Although the area is unsuitable for timber harvest, the timbered areas and associated vegetation types may be important to wildlife.

f. Visual Quality

Vegetation changes due to mining impacts could change the visual quality of the area, but the VQO's for the area would still be met. These changes would be indiscernable from the town of Huntington and from the Huntington Canyon Scenic Byway.

g. Surface Improvements

Subsidence could effect survey markers and fences. No other surface improvements are known to be present within the lease area.

h. Cultural Resources

No effect. All cultural resources on Federal lands are protected under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. If any proposals are made by the lessee which could impact the surface, such as a potential escarpment failure, a new environmental analysis would be required.

2. Short-Term Use vs. Long-Term Productivity

Underground mining and subsidence could involve long-term alteration of ground water flow and associated effects on surface resources. The long-term productivity could be altered as drainages, soils, and vegetation gradually adjust to any modified ground and surface water conditions. The productivity could decrease or increase depending upon the amount of available water.

3. Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

The resources which have been and will be consumed in coal extraction would be irretrievable, and would not be available for use elsewhere once expended. After the coal is mined, its use by future generations would be irreversibly lost, and coal reserves left in-place after mining would not be recoverable with present technology.

Subsidence could result in the irreversible changes to some of the discussed resources.

4. Cumulative Effects

Historically man's activities in the lease area have included coal production, recreational use, and limited livestock grazing, which have resulted in little or no change in surface resources. Cumulative effects resulting from mining coal could include the effects from subsidence and slope failures from continued operations. PacifiCorp is monitoring the impacts of mining on the permit area as part of the Mining and Reclamation Plan. To date, the results of monitoring in the permit area indicate there has been 2 to 8 feet of subsidence, but no other impacts to the resources of the area.

There is a potential for future conflicts between oil and gas and coal production if oil and gas leases are issued for the area. No surface impacts are predicted within the foreseeable future due to any activities other than mining.

B. Alternative B - Readjust the Lease with Existing Forest Service Special Stipulations (No Action)

1. Short-Term and Residual Impacts

a. Topography, Geology, and Seismicity

No change from Alternative A.

b. Water

Surface Water

Special Stipulation 3 of the current lease requires hydrologic monitoring and protects perennial streams. As the drainages on the lease are ephemeral, there will be no change from Alternative A.

Ground Water

No change from Alternative A.

c. Soils

No change from Alternative A.

d. Vegetation, Range, and Wildlife Habitat

No change from Alternative A.

e. Timber

No change from Alternative A.

f. Visual Quality

Special Stipulation 1 of the current lease provides some protection to visual qualities, so impacts could be slightly less than under Alternative A.

g. Surface Improvements

No change from Alternative A.

h. Cultural Resources

No change from Alternative A.

2. Short-Term Use vs. Long-Term Productivity

This alternative would generally involve the same impacts as those discussed under Alternative A. The stipulations in the lease provide a small amount of protection to surface water and visual quality.

3. Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

No significant change from Alternative A, with the exception that the magnitude of impacts could be slightly reduced. There would be no change in the amount of coal that could be mined.

4. Cumulative Impacts

The magnitude of impacts associated with mining would be essentially the same as those of Alternative A. The current lease stipulations provide some protection to surface water and

visual quality, but not enough to measurably change the magnitude of impacts.

C. Alternative C - Readjustment of the Lease with Existing and Additional Forest Service Stipulations

1. Short-Term and Residual Impacts

a. Topography, Geology, and Seismicity

This alternative reduces the potential for subsidence impacts to resources. Stipulation 1 protects paleontological resources. Stipulation 3 requires the collection of baseline data so impacts may be detected and quantified. Stipulations 9, 10, and 12 preclude damage to surficial geologic resources, such as escarpments and areas of steep slopes.

b. Water

Surface Water

This stipulations applied unde this alternative greatly reduce the potential for impacts to surface water quality and quantity due to mining, as compared to Alternatives A and B. Stipulations 3 and 7 require collection of baseline data and monitoring so impacts to water resources can be detected and quantified. Stipulation 17 requires the lessee to replace water lost or adversely affected by mining.

Ground Water

Underground mining has the potential for impacting the quality and quantity of groundwater as well as surface water. However, the stipulations included under this alternative the potential for impacts to occur is much less than under Alternatives A or B. Stipulations 3, 7, 9, and 17 provide the same protection for ground water as described above for surface water.

c. Soils

The accelerated erosion associated with potential landslides or escarpment failures, possible under Alternatives A and B, is precluded by Stipulation 9.

d. Vegetation, Range, and Wildlife Habitat

This alternative provides more protection for vegetation and wildlife habitat than Alternatives A and B. Stipulations 2

and 3 require baseline studies, and Stipulation 7 requires vegetative monitoring. Stipulations 4 and 14 specifically protect wildlife and their habitat. The stipulations protecting water resources will indirectly protect vegetation and wildlife. Stipulation 13 will protect range improvements.

e. Timber

Stipulation 11 requires that timber be removed only in accordance with the regulations of the surface management agency. The stipulations protecting water resources will also protect the timber.

f. Visual Quality

This alternative provides more protection for visual quality than Alternatives A and B, although all three alternative meet the VQO for the area. Stipulation 6 protects visual quality directly, while the stipulations protecting vegetation and precluding creation of landslides and escarpment failures provide indirect protection.

g. Surface Improvements

Stipulations 13 and 16 protect existing surface improvements and require mitigation for damages. This protection does not exist under Alternatives A and B.

h. Cultural Resources

Stipulation 1 also protects cultural resources which may be present in the lease area, in addition to the protection under Federal laws.

2. Short-Term Use vs. Long-Term Productivity

Alternative C would involve less impacts to long-term productivity than those from Alternatives A or B. The potential for occurrence of the effects and their magnitude would be decreased, and mitigation would be required.

3. Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

The amount of coal which could be mined from the lease could be reduced from that of Alternatives A or B. The potential for an irretrievable or irreversible commitment of surface water would be decreased from Alternatives A and B. Other potential impacts, possible under Alternatives A and B, are still possible under Alternative C but their magnitude would be greatly decreased.

#### 4. Cumulative Effects

The magnitude of impacts associated with mining would be much less than those under Alternatives A or B. The stipulations that would be applied would also require mitigation of impacts that may occur.

#### V. RECORDATION OF PERSONS, GROUPS, AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES CONSULTED

The Forest Service Interdisciplinary Team consisted of the following personnel:

Leland Matheson	Range Conservationist
Steve Romero	Wildlife Biologist
G. Dennis Kelly	Forest Hydrologist
Kevin Draper	Landscape Architect
Dale Harber	Geologist (I.D. Team Leader)

Notices of preparation of this environmental assessment were printed in the Emery County Progress and Sun Advocate newspapers. Letters were also sent to the individuals and organizations listed in Appendix A. The responses received are described in Section I.E. Issues and Concerns, and were considered during preparation of this document.

#### VI. REFERENCES

Hauck, F. R., 1980, Archaeological Sample Survey and Cultural Resource Evaluations of the East Mountain Locality in Emery County, Utah; Archaeological-Environmental Research Corporation, Bountiful, Utah.

USDA - Forest Service, 1976, Environmental Analysis Report/Part 23 Technical Examination for Federal Leases U-02292, SL-070645, and SL-066116; Manti-La Sal National Forest.

USDA - Forest Service, 1981, Environmental Assessment for Modification of Federal Coal Lease SL-066116; Manti-La Sal National Forest.

APPENDIX A

Reply to: 2820

Date: February 1, 1994

(See attached mailing list)

My office has been advised by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that the terms and conditions of Federal Coal Lease SL-066116 are due for readjustment on June 1, 1995. The BLM regulations at 43 CFR 3451 require that all coal leases issued prior to August 4, 1976, be subject to readjustment at the end of the first 20-year period and at the end of each 10-year period thereafter. Lease terms and conditions can be updated or changed by the BLM during readjustment.

As the surface management agency for the Federal lands involved with this lease, it is the role of the Forest Service to address management concerns and public issues for surface resources through the environmental analysis process. The BLM has requested that this Forest submit an environmental analysis and recommended stipulations to them by November 1, 1994.

I am addressing this correspondence to you since you have been identified as a potentially interested party. The environmental analysis will consider an alternative that fulfills the purpose and need of readjusting the subject lease. A No-Action alternative will also be considered. Your comments will help us develop public involvement for the analysis and refine the issues and alternatives that may be present.

This lease is held by PacifiCorp and is located approximately 28 air miles southwest of Price, Utah. The lease is in Emery County. Maps showing the location of the lease are enclosed. Forest Service administered lands included in this proposal are being managed with emphasis in forage production and leasable mineral development pursuant to the direction contained in the Manti-La Sal National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). The enclosed Forest Service Special Stipulations are routinely considered for inclusion in readjusted leases, and are consistent with the Forest Plan.

Please provide any comments that you may have on the proposal by March 1, 1994. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff DeFreest or Walt Nowak at the above address, or call (801) 637-2817.

Sincerely,

/s/Charles J. Jankiewicz  
CHARLES J. JANKIEWICZ  
Price District Ranger

Enclosures

J.DeFreest:jdf/dm

Mailing List

Lee Jeffs  
East Mountain C & H Allotment  
General Delivery  
Castle Dale, Utah 84513

Ken Phippen  
Division of Wildlife Resources  
455 W. Railroad Avenue  
Price, Utah 84501

Huntington-Cleveland Irrigation  
ATTN: Varden Willson  
P.O. Box 327  
Huntington, Utah 84528

PacifiCorp  
ATTN: Brian Young  
1407 West North Temple  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84140

Tim Gwyther  
Huntington Power Plant  
P.O. Box 680  
Huntington, Utah 84528

Emery County Water Conservancy District  
ATTN: Jay Mark Humphrey  
P.O. Box 998  
Castle Dale, Utah 84513

Huntington-Cleveland Irrigation  
ATTN: J. Craig Smith  
P.O. Box 11808  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84147

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

Emery County Commission  
ATTN: Dixie Thompson  
P.O. Box 629  
Castle Dale, Utah 84513

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P.O. Box 27  
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## APPENDIX B

### SPECIAL STIPULATIONS

Federal Regulations 43 CFR 3400 pertaining to Coal Management make provisions for the Surface Management Agency, the surface of which is under the jurisdiction of any Federal agency other than the Department of Interior, to consent to leasing and to prescribe conditions to insure the use and protection of the lands. All or part of this lease contain lands the surface of which are managed by the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service - Manti-LaSal National Forest.

The following stipulations pertain to the Lessee responsibility for mining operations on the lease area and on adjacent areas as may be specifically designated on National Forest System lands.

#### Forest Service Stipulation #1.

Before undertaking activities that may disturb the surface of previously undisturbed leased lands, the Lessee may be required to conduct a cultural resource inventory and a paleontological appraisal of the areas to be disturbed. These studies shall be conducted by qualified professional cultural resource specialists or qualified paleontologists, as appropriate, and a report prepared itemizing the findings. A plan will then be submitted making recommendations for the protection of, or measures to be taken to mitigate impacts for identified cultural or paleontological resources.

If cultural resources or paleontological remains (fossils) of significant scientific interest are discovered during operations under this lease, the Lessee prior to disturbance shall immediately bring them to the attention of the appropriate authority. Paleontological remains of significant scientific interest do not include leaves, ferns or dinosaur tracks commonly encountered during underground mining operations.

The cost of conducting the inventory, preparing reports, and carrying out mitigating measures shall be borne by the Lessee.

#### Forest Service Stipulation #2.

If there is reason to believe that threatened or endangered (T&E) species of plants or animals, or migratory bird species of high Federal interest occur in the area, the Lessee shall be required to conduct an intensive field inventory of the area to be disturbed and/or impacted. The inventory shall be conducted by a qualified specialist and a report of findings will be prepared. A plan will be prepared making recommendations for the protection of these species or action necessary to mitigate the disturbance.

The cost of conducting the inventory, preparing reports and carrying out mitigating measures shall be borne by the Lessee.

Forest Service Stipulation #3.

The Lessee shall be required to perform a study to secure adequate baseline data to quantify the existing surface resources on and adjacent to the lease area. Existing data may be used if such data is adequate for the intended purposes. The study shall be adequate to locate, quantify, and demonstrate the inter-relationship of the geology, topography, surface hydrology, vegetation and wildlife. Baseline data will be established so that future programs of observation can be incorporated at regular intervals for comparison.

Forest Service Stipulation #4.

Powerlines used in conjunction with the mining of coal from this lease shall be constructed so as to provide adequate protection for raptors and other large birds. When feasible, powerlines will be located at least 100 yards from public roads.

Forest Service Stipulation #5.

The limited area available for mine facilities at the coal outcrop, steep topography, adverse winter weather, and physical limitations on the size and design of the access road, are factors which will determine the ultimate size of the surface area utilized for the mine. A site specific environmental analysis will be prepared for each new mine site development and for major improvements to existing developments to examine alternatives and mitigate conflicts.

Forest Service Stipulation #6.

Consideration will be given to site selection to reduce adverse visual impacts. Where alternative sites are available, and each alternative is technically feasible, the alternative involving the least damage to the scenery and other resources shall be selected. Permanent structures and facilities will be designed, and screening techniques employed to reduce visual impacts and, where possible, achieve a final landscape compatible with the natural surroundings. The creation of unusual, objectionable, or unnatural landforms and vegetative landscape features will be avoided.

Forest Service Stipulation #7.

The Lessee shall be required to establish a monitoring system to locate, measure and quantify the progressive and final effects of underground mining activities on the topographic surface, underground and surface hydrology and vegetation. The monitoring system shall utilize techniques which will provide a continuing record of change over time and an analytical method for location and measurement of a number of points over the lease area. The monitoring shall incorporate and be an extension of the baseline data.

Forest Service Stipulation #8.

The Lessee shall provide for the suppression and control of fugitive dust on haul roads and at coal handling and storage facilities. On Forest Development Roads (FDR), Lessees may perform their share of road maintenance by a commensurate share agreement if a significant degree of traffic is generated that is not related to their activities.

Forest Service Stipulation #9.

Except at specifically approved locations, underground mining operations shall be conducted in such a manner so as to prevent surface subsidence that would: (1) cause the creation of hazardous conditions such as potential escarpment failure and landslides, (2) cause damage to existing surface structures, and (3) damage or alter the flow of perennial streams. The Lessee shall provide specific measures for the protection of escarpments, and determine corrective measures to assure that hazardous conditions are not created.

Forest Service Stipulation #10.

In order to avoid surface disturbance on steep canyon slopes and to preclude the need for surface access, all surface breakouts for ventilation tunnels shall be constructed from inside the mine, except at specific approved locations.

Forest Service Stipulation #11.

If removal of timber is required for clearing of construction sites, etc., such timber shall be removed in accordance with the regulations of the surface management agency.

Forest Service Stipulation #12.

The coal contained within, and authorized for mining under this lease shall be extracted only by underground mining methods.

Forest Service Stipulation #13.

Existing Forest Service owned or permitted surface improvements will need to be protected, restored, or replaced to provide for the continuance of current land uses.

Forest Service Stipulation #14.

In order to protect big game wintering areas, elk calving and deer fawning areas, sagegrouse strutting areas, and other critical wildlife habitat and/or activities, specific surface uses outside the mine development area may be curtailed during specified periods of the year.

Forest Service Stipulation #15.

Support facilities, structures, equipment, and similar developments will be removed from the lease area within two years after the final termination of use of such facilities. Disturbed areas and those areas previously occupied by such facilities will be stabilized and rehabilitated, drainages re-established, and the areas returned to a premining land use.

Forest Service Stipulation #16.

The Lessee, at the conclusion of the mining operation, or at other times as surface disturbance related to mining may occur, will replace all damaged, disturbed or displaced corner monuments (section corners, 1/4 corners, etc.) or their accessories and appendages (witness trees, bearing trees, etc.) or restore them to their original condition and location, or at other locations that meet the requirements of the rectangular surveying system. This work shall be conducted at the expense of the Lessee, by a professional land surveyor registered in the State of Utah, and to the standards and guidelines found in the Manual of Surveying Instructions, United States Department of the Interior.

Forest Service Stipulation #17.

The Lessees, at their expense, will be responsible to replace any surface water identified for protection, that may be lost or adversely affected by mining operations, with water from an alternate source in sufficient quantity and quality to maintain existing riparian habitat, fishery habitat, livestock and wildlife use, or other land uses.

STIPULATION FOR LANDS OF THE NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM  
UNDER JURISDICTION OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The licensee/permittee/lessee must comply with all the rules and regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture set forth at Title 36, Chapter II, of the Code of Federal Regulations governing the use and management of the National Forest System (NFS) when not inconsistent with the rights granted by the Secretary of the Interior of the license/prospecting permit/lease. The Secretary of Agriculture's rules and regulations must be complied with for (1) all use and occupancy of the NFS prior to approval of a permit/operating plan by the Secretary of Interior, (2) uses of all existing improvements, such as Forest development roads, within or outside the area licensed, permitted or leased by the Secretary of Interior, and (3) use and occupancy of the NFS not authorized by a permit/operating plan approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

All matters related to this stipulation are to be addressed to:

Forest Supervisor  
Manti-La Sal National Forest  
599 West Price River Drive  
Price, Utah 84501

Telephone No 801-637-0945

who is the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture.

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Signature of Licensee/Permittee/Lessee