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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
Reclamation and Enforcement
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1823 STOUT STREET
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

31 AUG 1979

Mr. Ron Daniels
Staff Assistant
Division of Oil, Gas and
Mining
Department of Natural Resources
1588 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Reference: Utah Power and Light Company Subsidence and Hydrology Monitoring Plans, Deer Creek and Wilberg Mines

Dear ~~Mr. Daniels~~ Ron:

We are hereby providing approval of the hydrology monitoring plan submitted by Utah Power and Light (UP&L) for the Deer Creek and Wilberg Mines. The proposal was originally submitted to the U.S. Geological Survey in correspondence dated December 20, 1977, in combination with a subsidence monitoring plan. This letter does not constitute an approval for the subsidence or the sedimentation pond design for the Wilberg and/or Deer Creek Mines.

The above mentioned correspondence states that an engineering assessment of potential subsidence associated with the room and pillar method for the area being mined is included. However, no copy of this assessment was found. Please have UP&L forward a copy of the report to this Office.

Due to the questions of subsidence interfering with springs in the East Mountain area, OSM suggested that quarterly flow data be taken for these springs. It is also suggested that quarterly samples be taken for "Other Ground Water Sources."

The concept of using a photogrammetrical survey to monitor subsidence is acceptable to OSM. However, the methods used to maintain the 1.0 feet relative elevation accuracy must be demonstrated. In order to maintain such vertical accuracies, large scale photography, at least 1:6000, is needed as well as experienced operators conducting the study.

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UP&L proposes using a third order-first class (1:10,000) grid system (page 3). There is some confusion as to what is meant by a third order-first class grid. The U.S. Geological Survey in Denver is unsure as to what is meant by third order-first class system, since third order signifies a 1:5000 scale. OSM requests that UP&L clarify what type of system is meant by third order-first class. If the scale is 1:10,000, UP&L must show that the operator will have the ability to maintain the vertical accuracy of 1.0 feet.

UP&L must show that the operator can maintain this accuracy in the given topography and vegetation cover with the given scale. Who will be doing the photogrammetrical survey (in-house verses contractual or federal agency)? What are the qualifications of this (these) persons? The questions pertaining to the ability of the operator is because of the high accuracy predicted by UP&L.

Copies of this letter are enclosed for transmittal to the company by your Office.

Sincerely,

DONALD A. CRANE

cc: Howard, BLM (1)
Feldmiller, USGS (1)
Daniels, UT-NS (2)
BLM District, Moab (1)
Moffit, USGS (1)