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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

File ACT/015/018-ARE
Copy to Lee & Wayne
Jim

APR 7 1981

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

Dear Jim:

Enclosed is a copy of March 23, 1981 letter from the Manti LaSal National Forest in regard to the Deer Creek/Wilberg Mine subsidence and hydrologic monitoring plans. I request that this information be forwarded to Utah Power and Light for their edification.

Sincerely,

DONALD A. CRANE

Enclosure

cc: Moffitt, USGS, SLC (with enclosure)

RECEIVED

APR 10 1981

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOREST SERVICE

Manti-LaSal National Forest

599 West Price River Drive

Price, Utah 84501

2820

March 23, 1981



Mr. John Nadolski
OSM - Reclamation and Enforcement
Brooks Towers - 1020 15th Street
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Mr. Nadolski:

The subsidence and hydrologic monitoring plans as submitted in the Wilberg Coal Mine Cottonwood Portal Fan Site Modification is very brief and refers to the Deer Creek/Wilberg Mine monitoring plans for more detailed information. The following comments are with regard to the 1977 plan and the 1979 annual report:

Apparently 48 springs were identified by photo interpretation and field investigations. Table 13 indicates flow rates and formations where the springs were located. However, it does not explain the relationship of springs to geology to justify the selection of the 10 locations being monitored. The geologic discussion is not adequate to explain the groundwater system.

The plan needs to incorporate concerns identified by the Forest Service. Our major concerns are for disruption of springs with subsequent effects to vegetation, wildlife, and range. What will be changes in land use? Landslides, unstable areas, timbered areas, or surface structures, are not mentioned. Present land uses need to be identified, described, and evaluated.

Page 26 of the March 28, 1980, Annual Report of Subsidence and Hydrologic Monitoring references a dramatic increase in the Wilberg Mine water flow. An interpretation of this change with respect to anticipated impacts to surface resources is needed. What will the effects be if there is a change in the groundwater migration? How will the anticipated impacts be effectively mitigated? A map outlining the angle of draw is also needed.

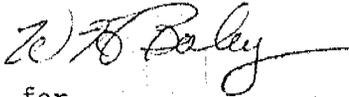
In reference to page 5 of the 1977 subsidence and hydrologic monitoring plan for the Deer Creek/Wilberg Mine, "Subsequent to



the initial survey in the spring of 1978, an annual map will be submitted showing any irregularities measured above the mined areas at a contour interval of one foot." The Forest Service would like such a map yearly.

If you have any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,



for

REED C. CHRISTENSEN

Forest Supervisor