

0029

orig mine file  
cc L. Braxton



United States Department of the Interior  
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING  
Reclamation and Enforcement  
BROOKS TOWERS  
1020 15TH STREET  
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

30 APR 1986

ACT/015/018  
**RECEIVED**  
MAY 05 1986

DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING

Mr. Chris Shingleton, Director  
Permitting, Compliance and Services  
Utah Power and Light Company  
Box 899  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110

Dear Mr. Shingleton:

I have enclosed copies of the environmental assessment (EA) and finding of no significant impact (FONSI) completed by the Manti-LaSal National Forest staff for the proposed breakout in the North Fork of Meetinghouse Canyon for the Deer Creek mine. It has been determined that this action, with adherence to the specified management requirements listed in the enclosure, will not result in significant environmental impacts.

You are authorized to proceed with the breakout in accordance with the enclosed U.S. Forest Service stipulations for Breakout Portals in the North Fork of Meetinghouse Canyon and the approved permits from the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.

If you have any questions, please call Rick Lawton or Richard Holbrook of my staff at (303) 844-2451.

Sincerely,

Allen D. Klein  
Administrator  
Western Technical Center

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Dianne Nielson, Utah DOGM, w/enclosure ✓  
Robert Hagen, OSMRE - AFO, w/enclosure  
Reed Christensen, Manti-LaSal National Forest, w/o enclosure

**FILE COPY**

DECISION NOTICE  
AND  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
MINE BREAKOUT PORTALS  
NORTH FORK MEETINGHOUSE CANYON  
FEDEAL COAL LEASE U-47979

Utah Power and Light Company

Manti-LaSal National Forest - Region 4  
Price, Utah

On April 7, 1986 the Price District of the Manti-LaSal National Forest received from the Utah State Division of Oil, Gas and Mining a request to process a proposal from Utah Power and Light Company (UP&L). UP&L has proposed three breakout portals in the North Fork of Meetinghouse Canyon in the SW1/4, SW1/4 Section 34, T.16S., R.7E., Salt Lake meridian. The three breakout portals are expected to involve less than one acre of surface area. The breakout portals are to be used for mine ventilation in the Deer Creek Mine. These portals will not be designated as emergency escapeways and will not require any surface access or facilities in the canyon.

An Environmental Assessment has been prepared that assesses the proposed action. Copies of the Environmental Assessment and other pertinent documents are available for review at the Price Ranger District Office and the Manti-LaSal National Forest Supervisor's Office located in Price, Utah.

Based on the analysis and evaluation described in the Environmental Assessment, I have decided to approve the proposed action subject to the management requirements identified for the Alternative Two (listed in Appendix 1 of the EA), which is a viable alternative under existing legislation and Forest Service policy and direction.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, a determination has also been made, through the environmental assessment process, that the proposed action will not create any significant impacts to the human environment. An Environmental Impact Statement, therefore, will not be required. This determination was based on consideration of a number of factors that are discussed in greater detail in the Environmental Assessment. The primary considerations are as follows:

1. Approval of the proposed three breakout portals will not be a major Federal action.
2. No surface access routes will be needed to the site of the breakout portals. No surface facilities will be required.
3. The proposed project can be conducted within the constraints outlined by the land management planning process.
4. Adherence to the specified management requirements can eliminate any significant residual impacts that could result from the project.

5. The proposed breakout portals will not impact any identified prime range, farm or timber lands; wetlands or floodplains; alluvial valley floors; cultural or paleontological resources; or Threatened or Endangered plant and animals species.

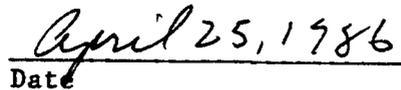
6. Coal Mining is and has historically been an integral part of the local economy and lifestyle.

Implementation may take place immediately after approval. This decision is subject to administrative review (appeal) pursuant to 36 CFR 211.18.

Responsible Official:



Forest Supervisor



Date

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
MINE BREAKOUT PORTALS  
NORTH FORK OF MEETINGHOUSE CANYON  
FEDERAL COAL LEASE U-47979

Utah Power and Light Company

Manti-LaSal National Forest  
Price, Utah

Responsible Official: Ira W. Hatch  
Price District Ranger  
Manti LaSal National Forest  
599 West Price River Drive  
Price, Utah 84501

Prepared by: Jo Ellis  
Geologist  
Price District  
Manti LaSal National Forest  
599 West Price River Drive  
Price, Utah 84501

## I. INTRODUCTION

Utah Power and Light Company (UP&L) has submitted to the Utah State Division of Oil, Gas and Mining a proposal for three breakout portals in the North Fork of Meetinghouse Canyon, see Maps 1 and 2. These portals are associated with UP&L's operation of the Deer Creek Mine and will provide ventilation to the mine. Coal mined from the Deer Creek Mine is from Federal Coal Lease U-47979 (see Map 2).

### A. Purpose or Need For Action

The breakout portals would be used for intake ventilation for the Deer Creek Mine. No surface facilities or access roads are proposed. The portals will not be designated as emergency escapeways. In the case of an emergency where other routes or escape were not possible and these portals were used, mine personnel could make their way to the canyon floor on foot. For a complete narrative see UP&L's proposal in Appendix 2.

The Forest Service I.D. Team with UP&L personnel visited the site of the proposed breakout April 2, 1986. The area was examined from on site and from across the canyon for prospective.

### Authorizing Action

Leasing and development will be under the authority of the following authorizing action: The Mineral Leasing Act of February 25, 1920, as amended; the Multiple Minerals Development Act of August 13, 1954; the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969; the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976; the Federal Coal Leasing Amendments Act of 1976, as amended; the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) of 1977; the Department of Energy Operations Act of August 4, 1977; the Act of October 30, 1978 that further amended the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920; regulations: Title 43 CFR Part 3400, Subpart 3400, Part 3420, Subpart 3420, Part 3430, Subpart 3432; Title 30, Part 700; and the Ferron Price Land Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement 1979.

### B. Issues, Concerns and Opportunities

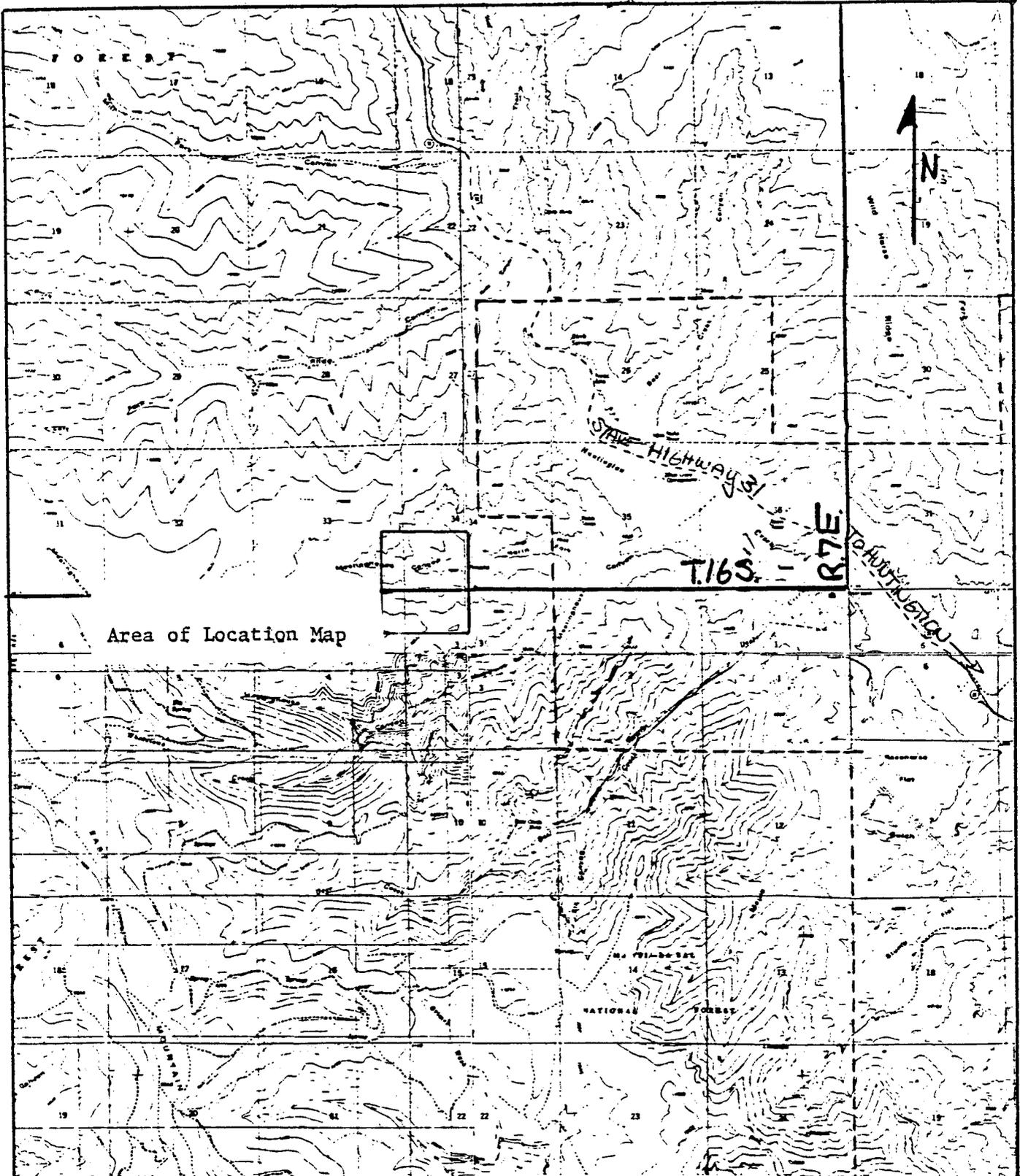
#### Public Issues

There were no response to the news release published in local papers. A copy of the news release is shown in Appendix 5.

#### Forest Service Concerns

Forest Service concerns include;

1. Accelerated erosion on steep side slopes



U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Topographic  
 Quadrangle, scale 1:24000

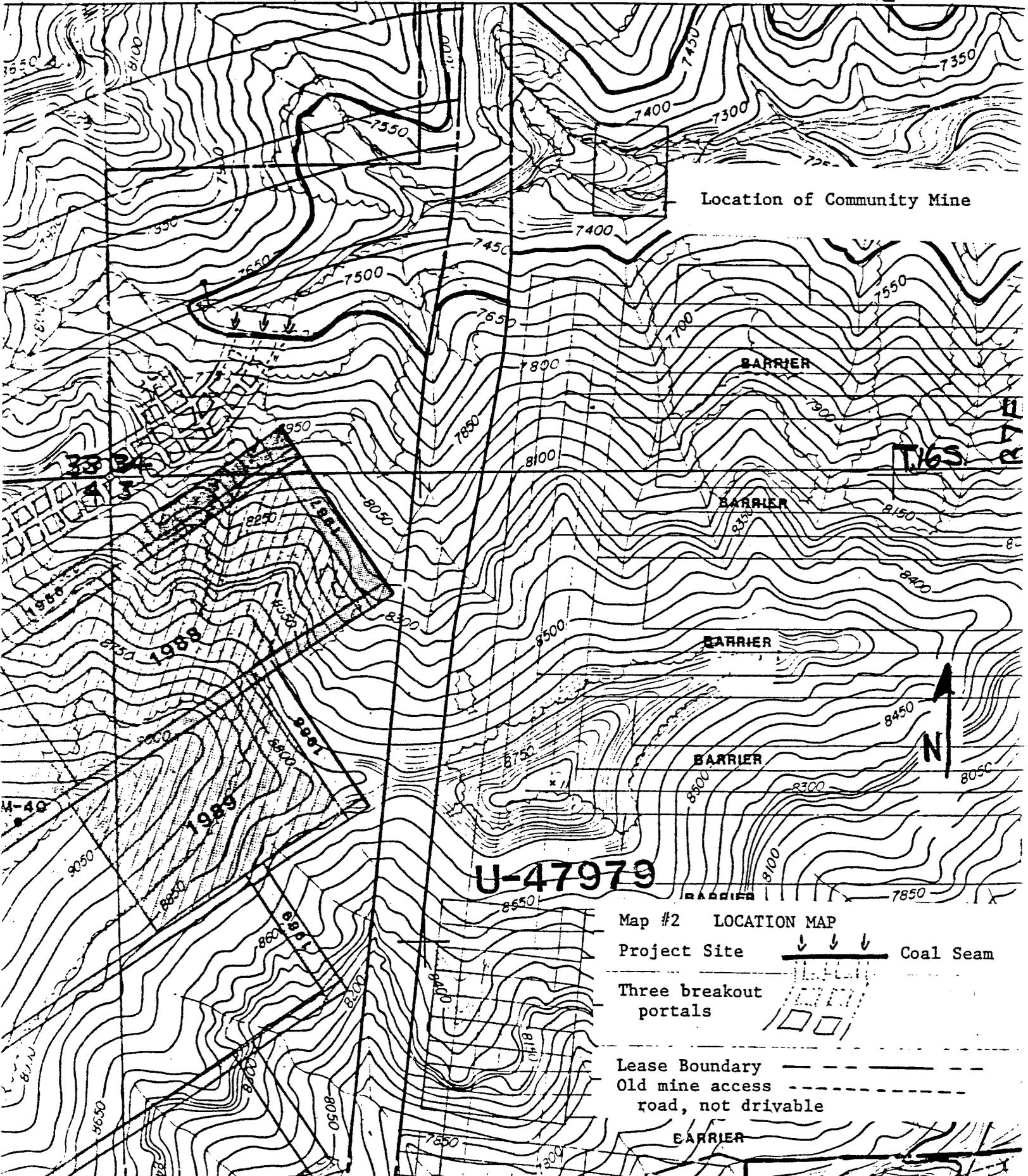
- Map #1 VICINITY MAP

- Forest Boundary - - - - -

Rilda Canyon	Hiawatha
Mahogany Point	Red Point

E 2,106,000

E 2,108,000



Location of Community Mine

BARRIER

BARRIER

BARRIER

BARRIER

U-47979

Map #2 LOCATION MAP

Project Site  Coal Seam

Three breakout portals 

Lease Boundary   
Old mine access road, not drivable 

BARRIER

2. Pollution of surface water
3. Public safety
4. Protection of wildlife and domestic livestock

Opportunities

The Forest I.D. Team did not identify any opportunities

C. Negative Declaration

The I.D. Team did not identify any prime range, farm or timber lands; wetlands or floodplains; alluvial valley floors; cultural or paleontological resources; or Threatened or Endangered plant and animal species; nor wilderness or proposed wilderness area that would be adversely affected by the proposed project.

D. Other Information

A cultural resource clearance has been recommended for the area involved in the proposal. Documents related to the cultural resource clearance are in Appendix 4

II. ALTERNATIVES, INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

A. Alternative One - No Action

Consideration of the No Action Alternative is required by Section 1502.14(d) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the CEQ guidelines as listed in the Federal Register November 29, 1979. If the No Action Alternative was selected, the UP&L's proposal would be rejected or denied. The Deer Creek Mine would continue to operate under the present mine plan.

Management guidelines for this area, in particular, and for the "Coal Lands" units, in general, permit coal leasing and development provided that no unacceptable impacts will result from the activity. The Forest Service I.D. Team did not identify any issues or concerns of sufficient magnitude to legally justify disapproval of the proposal or a reasonable alternative to the proposal. The No Action Alternative is not considered to be a viable alternative.

B. Alternative Two - Action as Proposed

Alternative Two is UP&L's proposal as presented.

1. Description of Alternative

UP&L proposes to create three breakout portals in the North Fork of Meetinghouse Canyon. These portals will be used for intake ventilation to the Deer Creek Mine. Each of the three portals will be approximately eight feet high and twenty feet wide with

horizontal separation of one hundred feet between centers. Each portal will be fenced and gated to prevent entry and posted with warning signs.

The breakout portals will be developed from within the mine and there will be no disposal of coal, rock or waste materials on the surface.

## 2. Location and Access

The project is located in the SW1/4, SW1/4 Section 34, T.16S., R.7E., SLM. The portals are on the south side of the North Fork of Meetinghouse Canyon at approximately 7600 feet elevation.

From State Highway 31 in Huntington Canyon a dirt road provides access part way up the North Fork of Meetinghouse Canyon. An old mine road may be followed on foot for 1/2 mile to an abandoned mine site. From there the only access is on foot across country, 1/4 mile to the project site.

## 3. Management Requirements

Management requirements are listed in Appendix 1.

### III .AFFECTED ENVIRONEMTN

The site of the proposed breakout portals is on the eastern edge of the Wasatch Plateau escarpment. The area is typified by narrow canyons with steep to vertical side walls. The creek bottom in the North Fork of Meetinghouse Canyon near the project site is deeply eroded and barren of vegetation. On the south side of the canyon above the scour channel is a narrow bench with gentle slopes. The bench has a cover of conifers, brush and forbes. This cover extends up the steeper side slopes above the bench, until the slopes become very steep and vertical outcrop is encountered, about 50 feet. The project site is located on the edge of the upper extent of the large vegetation cover. The site is approximately 200 feet above the canyon bottom. On these steep side slopes, up to 100%, soils are thin and the ground is covered by scree type material. Several debris shutes exist along the slope. The middle breakout was located at the center of one of these debris shutes. UP&L was revised there proposal to avoid this area. The new locations are shown on Map #3.

The project is located within the Gentry Mountain C&H Allotment. Meetinghouse Canyon is also used as a big game winter range. It was determined by DOGM and the USFWS that the breakout portals will not conflict with birds of high Federal interest (see DOGM letter in Appendix 3).

### IV. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

#### A. Alternative One - No Action

If, under Alternative One, the proposed breakout portals are not approved, there will be no short-term affects to the environment,

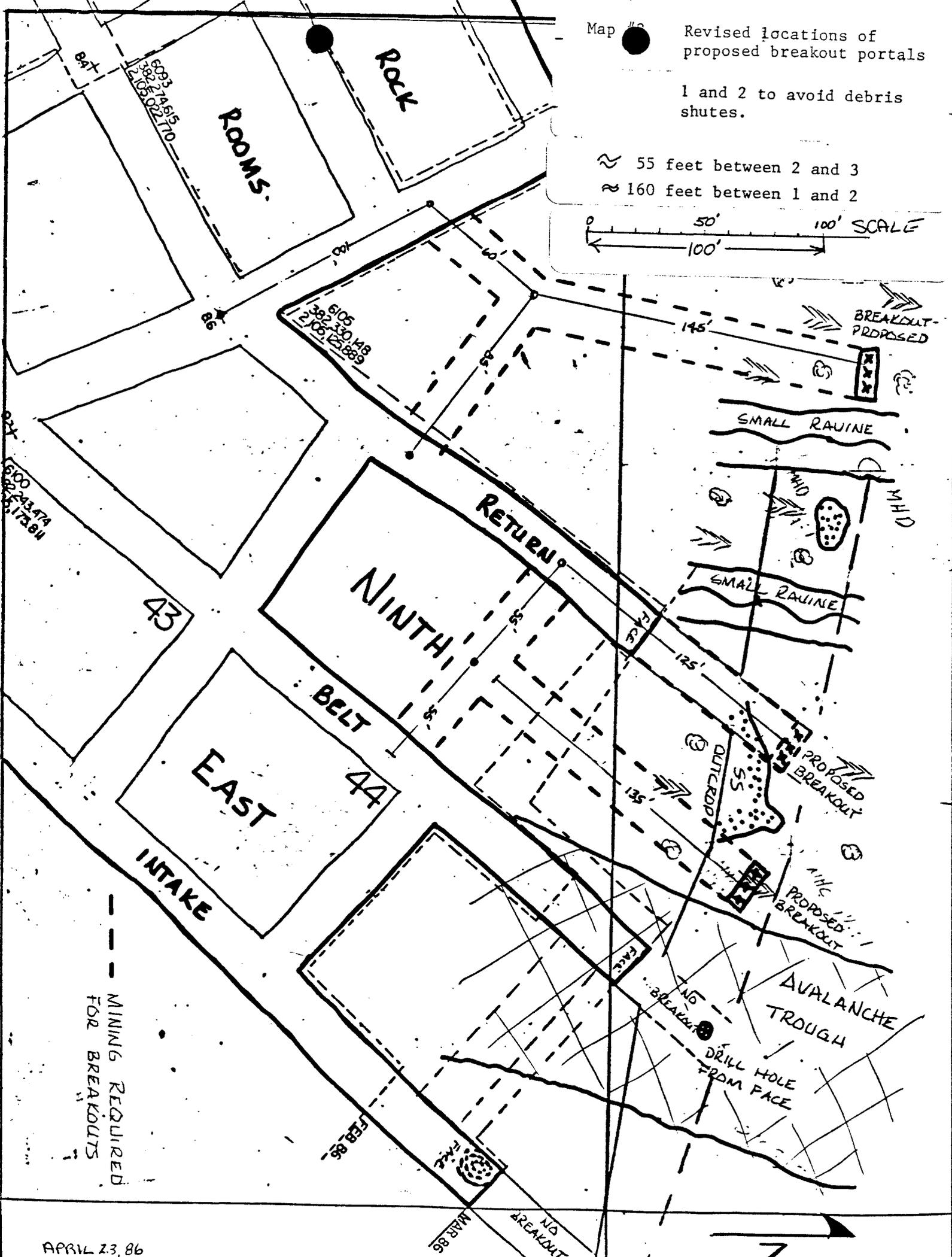
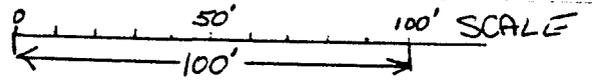
Map #3

Revised locations of proposed breakout portals

1 and 2 to avoid debris shutes.

≈ 55 feet between 2 and 3

≈ 160 feet between 1 and 2



--- MINING REQUIRED FOR BREAKOUTS

APRIL 23, 86

NO BREAKOUT  
MAR 86

water, land, air or plant or animal life. Resource users and uses in the project area will remain unchanged over the short-term. The long-term impacts will be the continuation of the naturally occurring trends until affected by other influences. Further, short-term and long-term productivity will not be affected under the No Action Alternative. Development of the leased Federal coal will continue with the on-going operation of the Deer Creek Mine. The Deer Creek Mine's method of operation and the amount of recoverable coal in their present lease would not change.

B. Alternative Two - Proposed Action

The following is an evaluation of the proposed action as presented by UP&L.

1. Short-Term and Residual Impacts

Approval of the proposed breakout portals will create some short-term impacts to a relatively small area, less than one acre. There will be loss of vegetation, including some conifers. UP&L plans to pull material from the breakout construction back into the mine and store it there. Initially there maybe some material wasted down slope. This material should come to rest on the bench below the breakout site and should not reach the canyon bottom. The quantity of material expected to accumulate on the bench should not be enough to disrupt the vegetation.

Residual impact will result from disturbance to the ground surface (outcrop) at the three breakout points. The Deer Creek Mine and Reclamation Plan (MRP) calls for sealing the portals when operations are completed at the mine. Eventually, after the portals are sealed, mass wasting from upper slopes will help cover the site. There should be no impact to wildlife or domestic livestock since the portals will be fenced and gated.

UP&L will slope the mine floor up to the breakout portals from inside the mine. This is to control mine water and prevent it from discharging through the portals. A brow ditch at the top of the portals should help keep slope wash from entering the mine.

Compliance with the management requirement specified for this alternative will help to mitigate environmental impacts.

2. Short-Term and Long-Term Productivity

The short-term productivity will be affected at the project site. This loss will affect less than one acre. Disturbance due to opening the portals will cause loss of vegetation until reclamation when the portals are sealed. The area should then return to productivity as the area is allowed to return to it's natural contour. Therefore long-term productivity should not be lost. The North Fork of Meetinghouse Canyon is big game winter range. The area to be disturbed is so small that it is unlikely to affect wildlife. There should not be a conflict with birds of

high Federal interest (see DOGM letter in Appendix 3). The project area is within the Gentry Mountain C&H Allotment, but is only used minimally. There is no access out of the head of the canyon to higher country.

3. Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments

There should be no significant irretrievable commitment of resources if Alternative Two is approved. Loss of productivity will be minimal and short-term. Irreversible commitment of resources should also be slight. Those resources affected are loss of earth material and soil. A majority of the surface material will be pulled back into the mine, while a much lesser amount maybe lost down slope. This material will be replaced by a process of mass wasting.

V. CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

A. Alternative One - No Action

There will be no new affect to the surface resources as result of Alternative One.

B. Alternative Two - Proposed Action

The area immediately surrounding the project is Federal land, specifically National Forest. The project area is on Federal Coal Lease U-47979.

The only previously disturbed area in the North Fork of Meetinghouse Canyon is to the east , down canyon, from the project area. The old inactive community mine is located approximately 1/4 mile east of the proposed breakout, on the south side of the canyon. The only reclamation at the old mine has been through natural processes. Spoil piles, buildings, machinery and trash is still evident. The access road is passable to within approximately 1/2 mile of the old mine. It can be assumed that there is some loss of productivity, water pollution and increased sedimentation as a result of the condition in which the mine facility was left. The impacts due to abandonment of the community mine are long-term unless an effort is made to reclaim the site manually. The access road shows some erosion. Vegetation is being re-established through natural invasion of native plant species.

V. CONCLUSIONS

The proposal by UP&L to create three breakout portals in the North Fork of Meetinghouse Canyon involves less than one acre of surface area. The area has steep, rocky slopes and a partial conifer cover. UP&L plans to pull all material possible back into the mine and to ramp up to the entrance to prevent mine water discharge from the portals. The opening will be fenced and gated to protect wildlife, domestic livestock and the public. The project should not create any significant short-term impacts. The ground

disturbance and presents of the portals will be residual impacts until reclamation is complete. Long-term and short-term productivity should not be seriously affected. There should be no significant irreversible or irretrievable commitment or resources. UP&L's construction and reclamation plans and Forest Service management requirements will help to mitigate environmental impacts.

VII. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

A. Forest Service I.D. Team and Consultants

Jo Ellis	Geologist	I.D. Team	Price District
Ira W. Hatch	District Ranger	I.D. Team	Price District
William H. Boley	Forest Engineer	I.D. Team	S.O.
Leland Matheson	Ranger Conservationist Consultant	Price District	

B. Out of Service Contacts

Val Payne	Utah Power and Light
Scott Child	Utah Power and Light

VIII. SELECTED REFERANCES AND TIERING DOCUMENTS

1. Land Management Plan, Ferron/Price, Planning Unit, Manti-LaSal National Forest.

Appendix 1

## Management Requirements

### Stipulations for Breakout Portals in the North Fork of Meetinghouse Canyon

1. All surface disturbing activities, including reclamation, must be supervised by a responsible representative of the leasee who is aware of the terms and conditions of the project permits.
2. The Forest Service must be notified of any proposed alteration to the proposed plan of operations. Any changes to the existing plan are subject to Forest Service review and approval.
3. All chain saws must be equipped with effective spark arresters and mufflers. Spark arresters must meet Forest Service specifications discussed in the USDA Forest Service Spark Arrester Guide, June 1981.
4. The leasee will be held responsible for damage and suppression costs for fires started as a result of operations. Fires must be reported to the Forest Service as soon as possible.
5. If cultural or paleontological resources are discovered during operations, all operations which may result in disturbance to the resource must cease and the Forest Service must be notified of the discovery.
6. The operator must clean up and remove all equipment, trash, garbage and other such materials from National Forest System Lands.
7. All disturbed areas must be seeded by the end of the 1986 field season. Exceptions require Forest Service written approval.
8. The reclaimed areas must be signed and fenced off to prevent use by domestic livestock and wildlife.
9. Reclamation efforts will be diligently pursued to insure that a minimum ground cover is established on all disturbed areas. Ground cover should be equal to or greater than the surrounding area. This should be accomplished by the end of the first subsequent growing season.
10. Reseeding will be with certified seed mix at 17 pounds per acre in the following perportion;

Intermediate wheatgrass	2 Lbs/acre
Slender wheatgrass	3 "
Creasted wheatgrass	2 "
Blue bunch wheatgrass	3 "
Smooth brome	2 "

Orchard grass	2	"
Meadow fox tail	2	"
Yellow sweetclover	1	"

Noxious weeds must be treated so that no noxious weeds are present on the site at the time of release of further reclamation responsibility.

11. All earth material from construction of the portals will be pulled back into the mine and stored there. Benches in front of the portals will be sloped back or bermed so precipitation will drain back into the mine. A brow ditch at the top of the portals will be constructed so slope wash will not enter the mine.
12. Trees fell during construction of the portals will be limbed and the slash scattered. If logs are not removed, they should be left pointing down hill. If logs are to be removed and transported away from the mine permit area, a Forest Service wood permit is required.
13. All measures possible will be take to insure mine water is not discharges from the portals into the North Fork of Meetinghouse Canyon.
14. Stipulation for Lands of the National Forest System Under Jurisdiction of Department of Agriculture.

The licensee/permittee 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 in the license. 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 by the Secretary of the Interior, (2) uses of all existing improvements, such as Forest Development Roads, within and outside the area permitted by the Secretary of the Interior, and (3) use and occupancy of the NFS not authorized by a permit approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

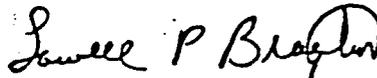
APPENDIX 2



Page 2  
Mr. Reed C. Christensen  
ACT/015/018  
March 28, 1986

Your timely review of these materials preparatory to producing the environmental assessment would be appreciated by the Division and UP&L. Please advise if additional data are required.

Sincerely,



Lowell P. Braxton  
Administrator  
Mineral Resource Development  
and Reclamation Program

btb  
Enclosures  
cc: Allen Klein  
0168R-20 & 21



1407 West North Temple  
P O Box 899  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110

RECEIVED  
MAR 27 1986

March 24, 1986

DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING

Mr. Lowell P. Braxton/John Whitehead  
Administrator, Mineral Resource Development  
and Reclamation Program  
State of Utah  
Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Oil, Gas & Mining  
3 Triad Center, Suite 350  
355 West North Temple  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

Dear Sir:

Re: North Fork Meetinghouse - Breakout Portals  
Deer Creek Mine

Recent events concerning approvals of the Meetinghouse Canyon ventilation breakout are somewhat clouded. Apparently, for whatever reason, the U. S. Forest Service must prepare an environmental analysis for the planned disturbance which to date has not been done.

Therefore, please take the necessary action to initiate the proposal as stated in the approved M.R.P. on page 3-6 and as shown on the mining plan in Volume VI, packet 3-2.

Mining has ceased in this area and cannot proceed until this E.A. is completed and approvals given.

Discussions with the U. S. Forest Service staff has resulted in several additional requirements:

1. Raptor conflicts - Attached is a discussion from the Division's Kathy Mutz, Reclamation Biologist in letter form dated March 12, 1986.
2. Archeological sweep - Attached is a professional declaration from Dr. R. Hauck who has, over the years, surveyed in areas of 4,000 acres randomly on East Mountain (see Volume I, M.R.P.).
3. Specific mitigation measures in addition to the plan proposed in the M.R.P.

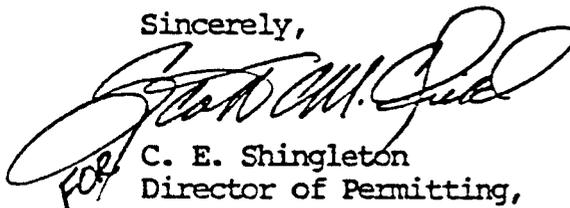
Mr. Lowell P. Braxton/John Whitehead  
March 24, 1986  
Page 2

Applicant further states no additional porch or land will be constructed associated with the breakouts and a 4-wire protective fence will be installed above each portal to protect animals and possible hikers.

Reclamation is discussed in section 4 of Volume II, M.R.P. Also included are revised pages 3-6 and 4-1 of the MRP noting that there are three breakout protals in North Fork Meetinghouse Canyon.

If you require further information, please contact Chris Shingleton at 801-535-4225.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. E. Shingleton". The signature is stylized and cursive. To the left of the signature, there is a small handwritten mark that looks like "for".

C. E. Shingleton  
Director of Permitting,  
Compliance & Services  
Mining and Exploration

CES:tb:5307  
Enclosure

cc: D. W. Jense  
R. C. Fry  
J. Taylor  
R. Jerman  
Larry Guymon (EMC)  
Val Payne (EMC)  
Ira Hatch (USFS, Price)  
Rick Holbrook (OSM, Denver)

Each of the three portals will be approximately eight feet high and twenty feet wide with horizontal separation of one hundred feet between centers. Each portal will be fenced to prevent entry and posted with warning signs.

The coal seams at this location strike in a north-south direction and dip to the west at 1.3 degrees. Because of this fact, any water produced near the portal would flow downdip into the mine rather than flowing out of the mine.

The breakout in the North Fork of Meetinghouse Canyon will be used for an intake portal. As was the case with the South Fork breakout, this breakout will be developed from within the mine and there will be no disposal of coal, rock or waste materials on the surface. These portals will not be designated as emergency escapeways and will not require any access routes in the canyon. If, in the case of an emergency which would cut off all other routes of escape and these portals were used, the personnel could make their way to the canyon floor on foot.

Each of the three portals will be approximately eight feet high and twenty feet wide with horizontal separation of one hundred feet between centers. Each portal will be fenced to prevent entry and posted with warning signs.

Prior to final location of the Meetinghouse intake portals, the USFWS will be consulted and a site-specific

FINAL RECLAMATION (784.13)

Structural Removal

Following completion of mining, (est. 2032) work will begin on demolition of the surface facilities. All structural steel, metal siding and other building materials except concrete will be dismantled and disposed of off the permit area. All foundations and structures built of concrete are to be broken up and buried in the reclaim bin as shown on the cross-sections. The asphalt material will also be buried here and then covered with at least 4 feet of non-toxic material.

Portal Sealing

At the end of mining, much of the non-essential equipment will have already been removed from the mine site. Reclamation will begin with portal sealing (Figure 1).

Deer Creek Mine presently has five (5) entries and one (1) exhaust shaft and the Meetinghouse Lease has six (6) air intakes. It is planned to construct permanent double-block seals with at least 25-feet of non-combustible material compacted to form an earthen plug.

Entry portals of the mine are located up-dip from the mined-out entries eliminating the need for hydrological seals or provision of providing water escapements. One air intake breakout planned in Meetinghouse Canyon will discharge water. For discussion, see Protection of Hydrologic Balance section.

Revised 11/21/83

Revised 12/23/83

Revised 3/24/86

4-1

Agency No. 2820

Date: August 22, 1984

For  
List

Allen D. Klein, Administrator  
CSM - Reclamation and Enforcement  
Brooks Towers - 1020 15th Street  
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Mr. Klein:

The Forest received a copy of the Deer Creek Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP) December 29, 1983. We have not yet received the draft Technical Analysis (TA), consequently, our comments only encompass the 1983 MRP and revisions to date.

To continue our cooperative efforts to meet your difficult time schedule, I will consent for the Forest Service to the Deer Creek MRP. My consent is subject to our receipt and review of the TA, and of satisfactory responses to our comments on both documents.

1. Several deficiencies have been noted on Map 2-18 which specifies various land uses. The map needs to be updated to include live-stock grazing, raptor nests, raptor nesting habitat, deer and elk summer/winter ranges, and commercial timber.
2. Burying any waste, toxic or natural, is prohibited on National Forest System lands.
3. Section XVII in the appendices deals with structures that could be affected by subsidence. The following items need to be included: fences, roads, stockpounds and associated earth dams and water troughs.
4. A map is needed which shows the ground location of the permanent monuments used in the 1980 aerial survey. Along with this, we need a copy of the 1980 baseline and each succeeding year photography; and the horizontal vertical control of the monuments used in the baseline aerial survey.
5. This plan only addresses the impacts associated with development of the Deer Creek Mine. The Wilberg and Deer Creek Mines are superimposed and the cumulative affects of subsidence need to be discussed.



6. It is implied that the Forest Service is using photogrammetric methods for subsidence monitoring. The Forest Service has not flown this permit area as Utah Power and Light elected to conduct their own aerial photography program.
7. Utah Power and Light will have to monitor seeps and springs at least through the life-of-mine.
8. There is no commitment by Utah Power and Light to protect or replace surface water lost as a result of mining related activities. This commitment by Utah Power and Light is needed.
9. There is no commitment by Utah Power and Light to protect the escarpment. The lessee in his mining plan shall provide specific measures for the protection of the escarpment. The OSM, in consultation with and concurrence of the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service, shall approve such measures.
10. Two special-use permits issued to Utah Power and Light need to be included: the 345KV line up Meetinghouse Canyon, and the warehouse-storage yard on SL-064607.
11. Utah Power and Light has not shown there is material available to adequately topsoil during reclamation. Topsoil needs to be spread over the disturbed areas. Utah Power and Light will be held responsible until reclamation is adequate.
12. There is no specific mention in the Mining and Reclamation Plan that support facility structures, equipment, and similar developments will be removed from the lease area within two (2) years after the final termination of use of such facilities.
13. Land outside the lease areas but under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service needs to be excluded from the permit area.
14. The Forest Service will need to prepare environmental assessments for surface disturbing activities such as the proposed breakout in Meetinghouse Canyon.
15. The high pH furnace slag like that used in the parking lot should be experimentally tested under similar reclamation conditions prior to reclamation. Its feasibility has not been determined at this time.
16. The final reclamation proposes collecting Deer Creek in a constructed channel with a capacity for the 100 year recurrence interval flow. This constructed channel traverses a hillside before the water is dumped back into the natural channel. Portions of the plan have two phases. The first phase incorporates a temporary interval flood. The second phase is to be delayed until a portion of the disturbed area is rehabilitated.

The location of the final channel should follow the topographic low, which is the natural channel. Any other design will eventually fail and the stream will then follow and likely create a new topographic low. The design should deal with the problems associated with this low location.

Sincerely,



REED C. CHRISTENSEN  
Forest Supervisor



Each of the three portals will be approximately eight feet high and twenty feet wide with horizontal separation of one hundred feet between centers. Each portal will be fenced to prevent entry and posted with warning signs.

The coal seam in Meetinghouse Canyon at both north and south fork portal locations strikes in a north-south direction and dips to the west at 1.3 degrees. Because of this fact, any water produced near the portal would flow downdip into the mine rather than flowing out of the mine.

The breakout in the North Fork of Meetinghouse Canyon will be used for an intake portal. As was the case with the South Fork breakout, this breakout will be developed from within the mine and there will be no disposal of coal, rock or waste materials on the surface. These portals will not be designated as emergency escapeways and will not require any access routes in the canyon. If, in the case of an emergency which would cut off all other routes of escape and these portals were used, the personnel could make their way to the canyon floor on foot.

Each of the three portals will be approximately eight feet high and twenty feet wide with horizontal separation of one hundred feet between centers. Each portal will be fenced to prevent entry and posted with warning signs.

Prior to final location of the Meetinghouse intake portals, the USFWS will be consulted and a site-specific

Structural Removal

Following completion of mining, (est. 2032) work will begin on demolition of the surface facilities. All structural steel, metal siding and other building materials except concrete will be dismantled and disposed of off the permit area. All foundations and structures built of concrete are to be broken up and buried in the reclaim bin as shown on the cross-sections. The asphalt material will also be buried here and then covered with at least 4 feet of non-toxic material.

Portal Sealing

At the end of mining, much of the non-essential equipment will have already been removed from the mine site. Reclamation will begin with portal sealing (Figure 1).

Deer Creek Mine presently has five (5) entries and one (1) exhaust shaft and six (6) planned air intake portals within the north and south forks of Meetinghouse Canyon (3 portals within each fork). It is planned to construct permanent double-block seals with at least 25-feet of non-combustible material compacted to form an earthen plug.

Entry portals of the mine are located up-dip from the mined-out entries eliminating the need for hydrological seals or provision of providing water escapements. In case of mine water inundation after mine abandonment, the south fork

Meetinghouse Canyon portals (lowest elevation) may discharge water. For further explanation refer to pages 4-32 thru 4-35 of the Protection of Hydrologic Balance section.

Revised 12/23/83  
Revised 3/24/86  
Revised 4/3/86  
4-1-A

mine entries. However, it has also been observed that, in general, areas which at one time produced abundant water, have since become dry, indicating that mining activities have dewatered the strata which encloses the coal seam. Because the current data are insufficient to prove whether or not the mine workings will become flooded on abandonment, the applicant will design the Meetinghouse south fork breakout portal (portals of lowest elevation) seals to contend with water flooding the mine workings.

The strata which surrounds the Blind Canyon Seam is fractured. If hydrologic seals were placed within the portal to contain the water flowing out of the mine, it is likely that this water would be forced around the portal seal and migrate to the surface.

The quality of the water currently being discharged from the Deer Creek Mine is within the effluent limitations established by the EPA. In 1982, the quality of water leaving the mine was as follows:

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>1982 Average</u>	<u>Effluent Limitations</u>
pH	7.5	6.5 - 9.0
Iron (Mg/L)	0.8	3.0
Oil and Grease (Mg/L)	0.5	10.0
TDS. (Mg/L)	635.5	700
TSS (Mg/L)	9.3	25

Because it would be difficult to keep the water from migrating through fractures around hydrologic seals if they were used, after mine abandonment, the applicant feels that the most environmentally effective method would be to

establish a permanent discharge. The quality of the water that would be discharged could meet the EPA effluent limitations without treatment.

Upon mine abandonment the Meetinghouse south fork portal, which is the lowest elevation of all the portals of the Deer Creek Mine, will be sealed. The mine entry will be filled with gravel and sand for a distance of 25 feet each to act as a filter to remove any suspended solids from the water. A four inch diameter drain pipe will be installed which would allow for a continuous discharge of more than 300 GPM. This pipe will be buried below the frost line for a distance of less than 100 feet to the natural drainage where the discharge will enter the south fork of Meetinghouse Canyon.

The other portals which are at a slightly higher elevation than the Meetinghouse south fork portal will be sealed as detailed in the reclamation section. The applicant will coordinate and follow directions and approval of the Bureau of Land Management upon sealing of the portals.

After the portals are sealed, the applicant will monitor the water quality until such time that the bond is released.

Although precautions are being taken to protect the hydrologic regime of the Deer Creek Mine area, it is still possible that the ground water systems will be altered. The normal downward movement of ground water may be interrupted when it intersects the mine workings. These waters may flow laterally through the mine workings to a point where they

Appendix 3

APPENDIX 3



STATE OF UTAH  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
Oil, Gas & Mining

17EM 1  
Norman H. Bangertter, Governor  
Dee C. Hansen, Executive Director  
Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D., Division Director

355 W. North Temple • 3 Triad Center • Suite 350 • Salt Lake City, UT 84180-1203 • 801-538-5340

March 13, **RECEIVED**  
MAR 14

Mr. Chris Shingleton  
Utah Power & Light Company  
P. O. Box 899  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110

EMERY MINING CORP.  
ENGINEERING

Dear Mr. Shingleton:

RE: Meetinghouse Canyon Breakout, Utah Power & Light Company,  
Deer Creek Mine, ACT/015/018, #13, Emery County, Utah

This letter is to document that various conversations and letters among yourself, Val Payne (Emery Mining Corporation [EMC]), Bruce Waddell, Clark Johnson (U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service [USFWS]) and myself constituted consultation on the effect of the North Fork Meetinghouse Canyon breakout on birds of high federal interest.

My conversations with the various parties indicated that there was a misunderstanding on the reason for the required consultation. USFWS did not request the "consultation language" at the time of permitting because they were unsure of the breakout location. The Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP) maps clearly identified its proposed location in Meetinghouse Canyon although various revisions differed on the number of portals proposed. The main purpose of the consultation was to insure that a site investigation of the portal area be conducted before breakout. The potential impacts on cliff or tree nesting raptors and cavity nesting birds were of particular concern.

For this consultation, Val Payne provided background material for a letter from the Division to the USFWS, conducted a site visit and provided a report on that visit to both the Division and the USFWS. While snow conditions prevented access for observation of tree nesters, the potential for conflicts with cliff nesters was evaluated. Val was also planning to "take a look" for problems from the inside after breakout.

Page 2

Mr. Chris Shingleton

ACT/015/018

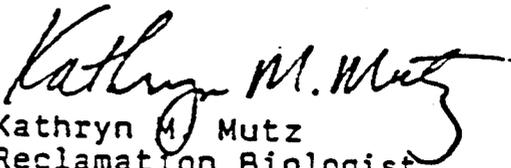
March 13, 1986

Based on the available data, the USFWS agreed with Val's assessment of no significant conflict between the breakout and birds of interest.

It is my understanding that another breakout is planned for the South Fork of Meetinghouse Canyon and that Utah Power & Light Company is also committed to consultation for this breakout. The Division and the USFWS would appreciate it (and heartily recommend) that the site inspection be performed during the summer prior to expected breakout and that the data be reported to give the agencies sufficient time to evaluate it and develop mitigation measures if conflicts are identified. Providing data at the last moment (as was done for the North breakout) is much more likely to result in a delay of mining than if the necessary biological assessment if performed with ample time for review.

We appreciate Val Payne's efforts in this consultation.

Sincerely,

  
Kathryn M. Mutz  
Reclamation Biologist

kmm

cc: C. Johnson

V. Payne

J. Whitehead

0531R-14 & 15

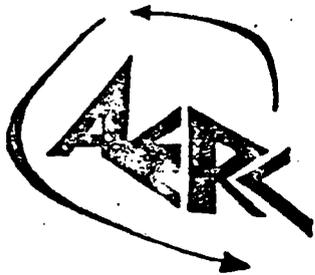
S. CHILD (UP&L)

E. WHITE

D. GRANGE

ENGINEERING

APPENDIX 4



# ARCHEOLOGICAL - ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CORPORATION

P.O. Box 853 Bountiful, Utah 84010  
Tel: (801) 292-7061, 292-9668

March 26, 1986

Mr. Ira Hatch, District Ranger  
U.S. Forest Service  
Price Ranger District  
61 North Second East  
Price, Utah 84501

Dear Mr. Hatch:

This letter is in response to a request from Utah Power & Light Company for a statement concerning the potential for cultural resource presence in a one acre parcel on the north facing slope of the North Fork of Meetinghouse Canyon, Emery County, Utah. The area of concern consists of a parcel in the SW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 34, Township 16 South, Range 7 East, as shown on attached Map 1.

The company is working in the mine corridor entitled "9th East off 3rd North" and will be breaking through to the surface and establishing three ventilation portals in the proposed location. Our office has therefore received an emergency request for an archaeological assessment of the locale. Snow conditions on the north facing slope of the canyon, however, preclude our presently conducting a surface examination. For this reason, this letter has been prepared for your office.

Acting as a consultant for Utah Power & Light Company, AERC has conducted numerous cultural resource evaluations associated with the Deer Creek Mine permit area (see AERC Paper No. 22, "Archeological Sample Survey and Cultural Resource Evaluations of the East Mountain Locality in Emery County, Utah" dated September, 1980--UPL-80-1). The up-dated Maps 1 and 2 attached to this letter show the locations of the survey areas closest to the proposed break-out location. These maps demonstrate the locations of the small project evaluations conducted by AERC within the one to two mile radius around the parcel.

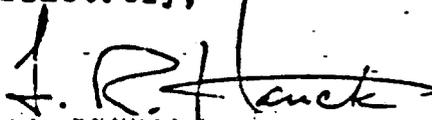
No cultural resource sites have been located in the steep, forested north slopes of Meetinghouse or Rilda Canyons. The project area under present consideration contains similar topography to those nearby evaluated surfaces. Over the years AERC has conducted numerous archaeological evaluations in the immediate area of the proposed portals. These surveys have been

conducted on the adjacent ridges and flats which have a greater potential for resources than does the steep north slope. Archaeological evaluations have not resulted in the identification of any cultural sites in the vicinity. This parcel, therefore, has very little, if any potential for containing significant sites which would be disturbed by the break-out operations.

AERC recommends, therefore, that a cultural resource clearance be granted to Utah Power & Light Company relative to their establishing three portals for the mine in this parcel.

Should there be any further questions, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

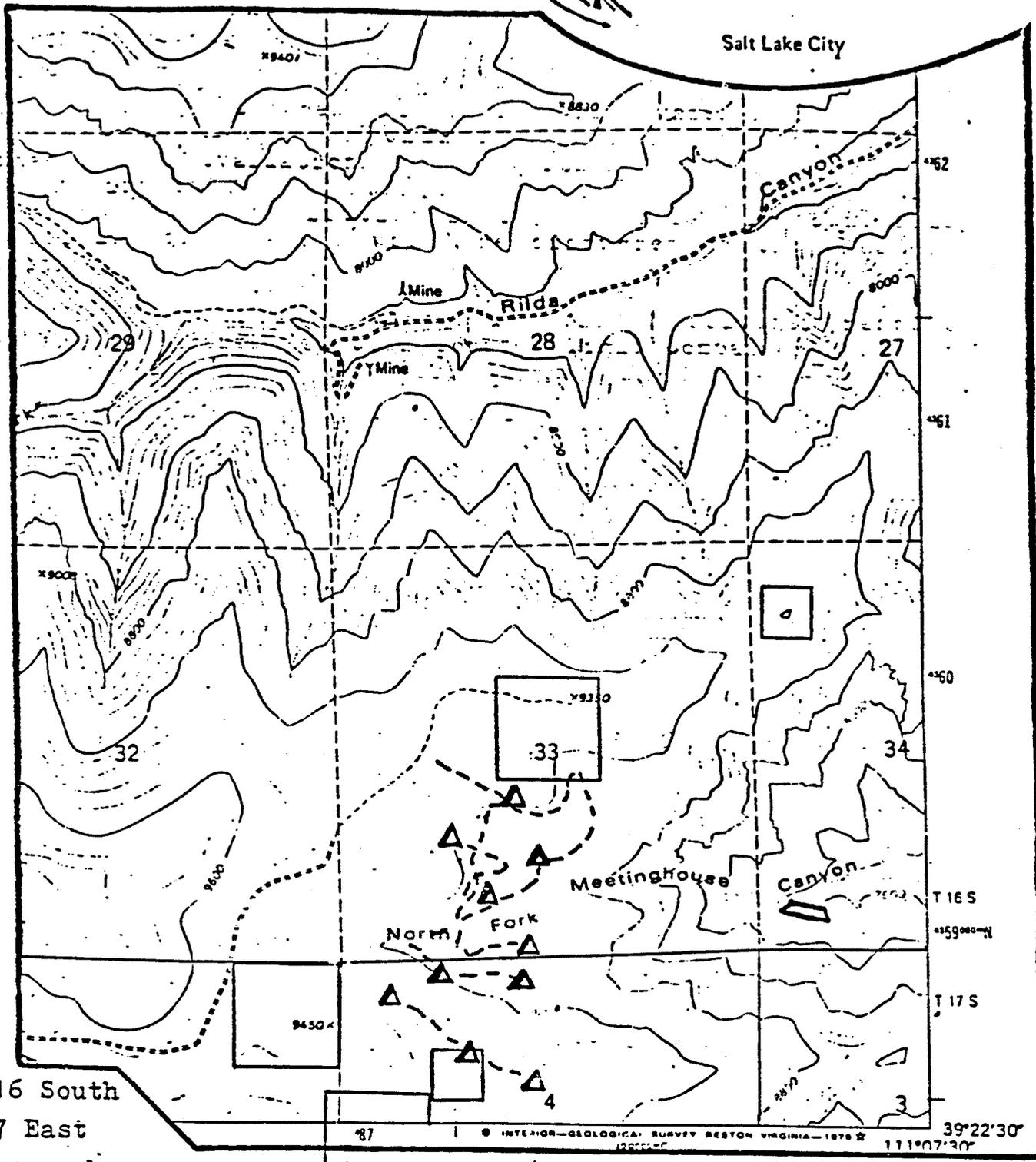


F.R. Hauck, Ph.D.  
President

The company is working

lah

cc: Mr. Christopher Shingleton  
Utah Power & Light Company  
Mining Exploration Staff  
P.O. Box 899  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
84110



I. 16 South  
R. 7 East

Meridian: Salt Lake B. & M. MAP 1 Quad: 39°22'30" 111°07'30"

Project: UPL-86-1  
Series: Central Ut.  
Date: 3-26-86

Cultural Resource Survey  
Areas in the Meetinghouse  
Canyon Locality of Emery  
County, Utah

Rilda Canyon,  
Utah  
7.5 minute-USGS

Legend:  
Portal Break-out  
Area  
10 Acre Survey  
Area



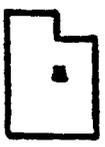
2.64" = 1 m.

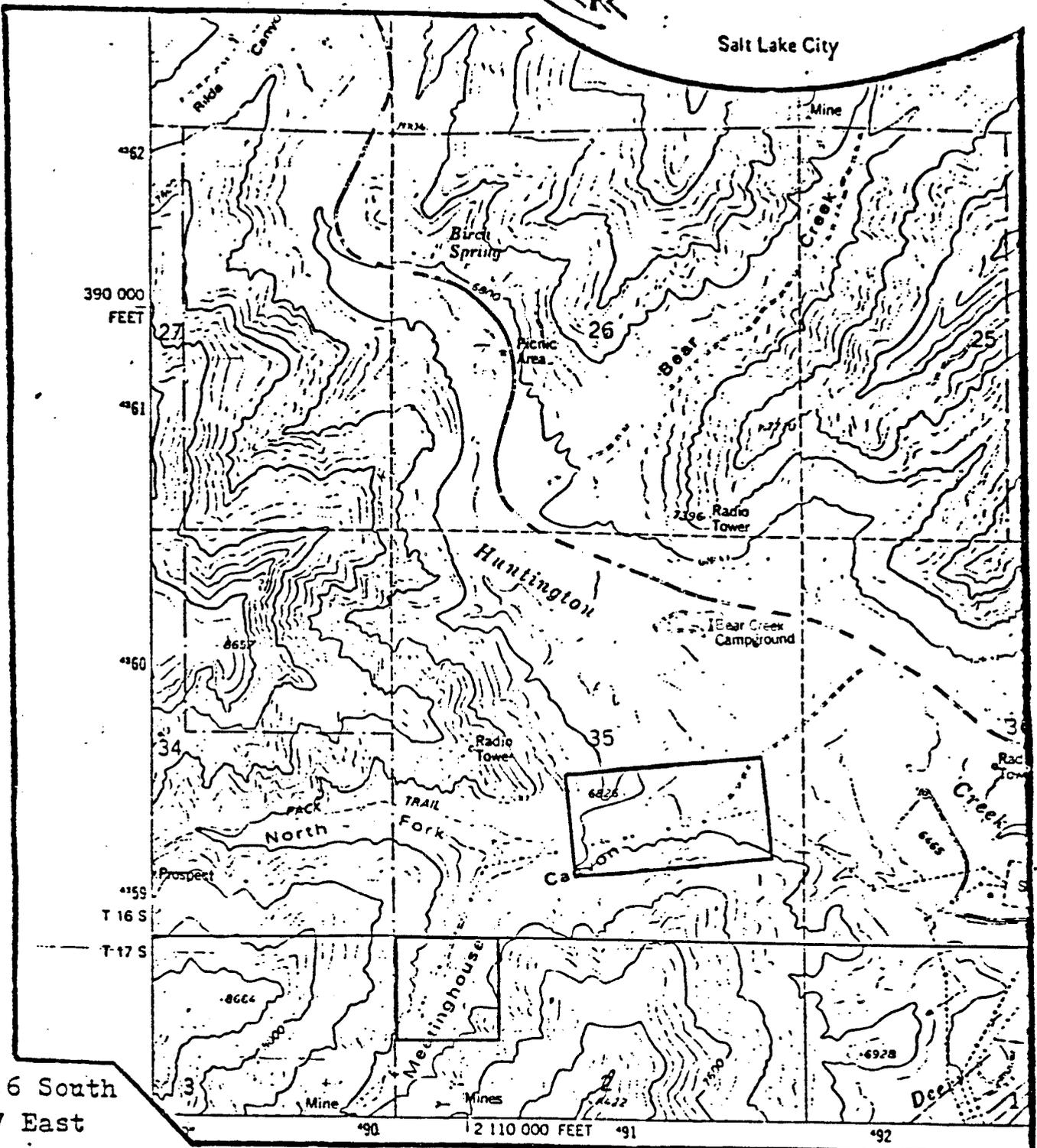
Scale

Well Pad ▲

Access

40 Acre  
Survey Area





T. 16 South  
R. 7 East

Meridian: Salt Lake B. & M. MAP 2

Quad:

Project: UPL-86-1  
Series: Central Ut.  
Date: 3-26-86

Cultural Resource Survey  
Areas in the Meetinghouse  
Canyon Locality of Emery  
County, Utah

Hiawatha, Utah  
7.5 minute-USGS



Legend:

40 Acre  
Survey Area



2.64" = 1 m.

# DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE AND EFFECT

## USDA-Forest Service - Intermountain Region

FSM 2360

To be completed by a cultural resource specialist and attached to the CR report and project EA. Type all entries.

UTAH POWER AND LIGHT BREAKOUTS - MEETINGHOUSE CANYON  
Project Title

ML-86-0416  
Cultural Resource Report No.

A cultural resource investigation has been conducted for this project and cultural values have been identified. Based on the attached report, the Forest Service has made the following determinations.

**CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE**

Class	No. of Sites	USFS Site Numbers
I - Eligible	<b>NONE</b>	
II - Unevaluated		
III - Not Eligible		

**EFFECT** - There will be no effect to the following Class I and II sites because:

They are outside the project area.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
They are outside impact zones.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Final project plans will avoid them.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
National Register characteristics will not be changed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other (explain below).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Check here if sites will be affected, and attach a detailed explanation.

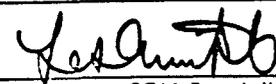
**COMMENTS AND COORDINATING REQUIREMENTS**

The following actions are proposed to ensure the protection of known or suspected sites. None

**SLOPE AND VEGETATIVE DUFF IN THE PROPOSED PROJECT AREA PRECLUDE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER SURVEY IN THE AREA. PREVIOUS SURVEYS IN NEARBY LOCATIONS WITH GREATER POTENTIAL YIELDED NO CULTURAL RESOURCES. PROPOSED PROJECT WILL HAVE VERY LIMITED IMPACT ON GROUND SURFACE.**

**"NO EFFECT" ON CULTURAL RESOURCES DUE TO ABOVE.**

**FOREST SERVICE CERTIFICATION**

 Professional CRM Specialist	31 MARCH 86 Date	N/A Line Officer Approval*	_____ Date
--	---------------------	-------------------------------	---------------

\*Required when significant sites may be affected and/or when non-routine action is recommended.

**S.H.P.O. COMMENTS**

I have reviewed the documentation provided by the Forest Service.

I agree with the determinations.  I disagree, as explained below or in the attached letter.

N/A

---

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**APPENDIX 5**

To state board

## UP&L applies for change

Utah Power and Light, owners of the Deer Creek mine in Emery County, have applied to the Utah State Division of Oil, Gas and Mining for a modification of their mining and reclamation plan. This involves federal coal lease U-47979.

The Manti-LaSal National Forest has surface administration of the land involved in the proposed modification and therefore is responsible for the preparation of an environmental assessment of the UP&L proposal.

The UP&L proposal is for three breakout portals in the north fork of Meetinghouse Canyon. The portals will be used

for intake ventilation for the Deer Creek mine. Each of the three portals will be approximately eight feet high and twenty feet wide with horizontal separation of 100 feet between centers.

No surface facilities have been proposed. The portals will be developed from within the mine and there will be no disposal of coal, rock or waste material on the surface. Mine water will not be discharged from these portals. Each portal will be fenced to prevent entry, protect animals and any possible hikers.

The proposed portals will affect less than one acre of the

surface area. Any mitigation measures recommended by the Forest Service to protect surface resources will become part of the mining and reclamation plan if the proposal is approved.

The Forest Service is requesting comments by any organization or individual interested in the proposed mining and reclamation plan modification for the Deer Creek mine.

Comments can be made in person or in writing to the Manti-LaSal National Forest, 599 West Price River Drive, Price, Utah 84501 or by phone (801) 637-2817.

Comments to be considered in the environmental assessment process should be received by the forest supervisor's office by April 23. If there are any questions, contact Ira Hatch, Price district ranger or Jo Ellis, geologist, at the above phone number and address.