

0044



STATE OF UTAH  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
Oil, Gas & Mining

Norman H. Bangerter, 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 28, 1986

Mr. Reed C. Christensen  
Forest Supervisor  
U. S. Forest Service  
Manti-LaSal National Forest  
599 West Price River Road  
Price, Utah 84501

Dear Mr. Christensen:

RE: North Fork Meetinghouse Breakout, Utah Power & Light  
Company, Deer Creek Mine, ACT/O15/O18, #2, Emery County,  
Utah

Enclosed please find data substantiating the need on the part of Utah Power & Light Company (UP&L) to breakout of Meetinghouse Canyon for ventilation purposes. Correspondence between your office and the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) dated August 22, 1984 (enclosed) substantiates the need for an environmental assessment for the Meetinghouse Canyon breakout (see page 2, #14 of the enclosed correspondence). The breakout is a part of an approved Mining and Reclamation Plan. The Division is in concurrence with the concept of a breakout provided the requisite environmental assessment has been conducted by the U. S. Forest Service. Also enclosed please find data provided by UP&L that will be useful in conducting an environmental assessment:

1. Discussion on ramifications of the breakout on raptors.
2. An archeological assessment of the breakout ramifications.
3. Mitigation measures.

**FILE COPY**

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.

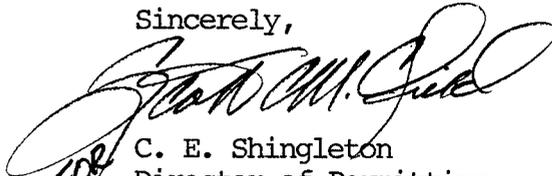
Mr. Lowell P. Braxton/John Whitehead  
March 24, 1986  
Page 2

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, the letters "FOR" are written in a smaller, handwritten font.

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

CES:bb: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)



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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 is 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



# 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.

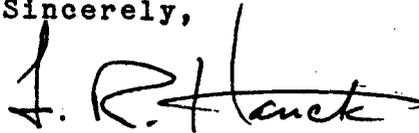
No cultural resource sites have been located in the steep, forested north slopes of Meetinghouse or Rilda Canyons. The project area under present consideration contains similar topography to those nearby evaluated surfaces. Over the years AERC has conducted numerous archaeological evaluations in the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

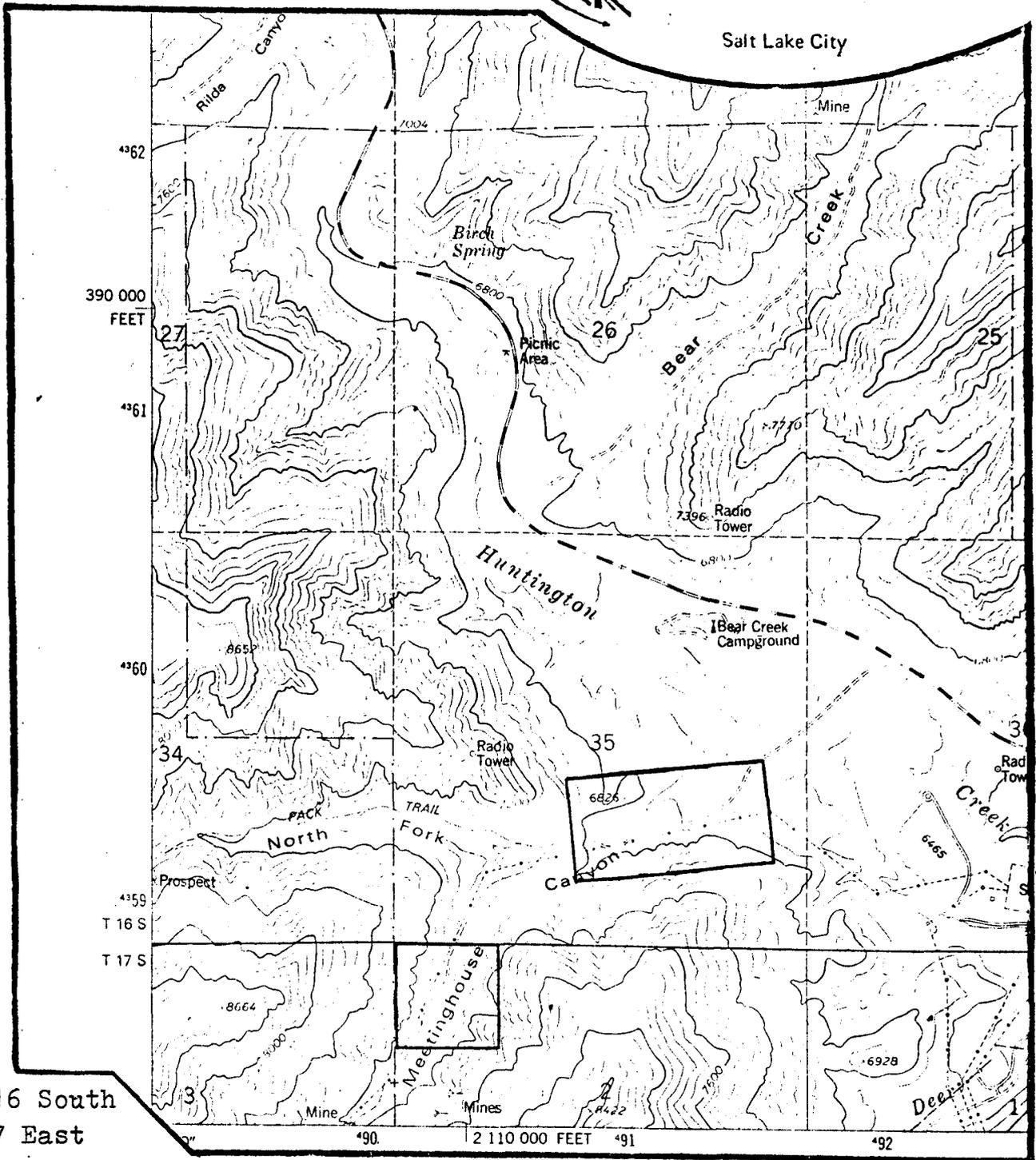
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F.R. Hauck". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

F.R. Hauck, Ph.D.  
President

lah

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





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

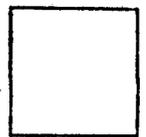
Cultural Resource Survey  
Areas in the Meetinghouse  
Canyon Locality of Emery  
County, Utah

Hiawatha, Utah  
7.5 minute-USGS



Legend:

40 Acre  
Survey Area



2.64" = 1 m.

Scale

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

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.

Reply to: 2820

Date: August 22, 1984

Forest  
List

Allen D. Klein, Administrator  
OSM - 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, stockponds 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