

015/018 #2

0011

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Manti-LaSal
National Forest

599 West Price River Dr.
Price, Utah 84501

Reply to: 2820

Date: December 2, 1988

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

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DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

Dear Lowell:

RE: Utah Power and Light Co. Deer Creek Mine, Permit No. UT-0016, 10/85,
Manti-LaSal National Forest Special Condition

This letter concerns the status of compliance with the Forest Service Special Condition as requested by your office.

On February 21, 1986, we received a letter from OSMRE (dated February 12, 1986), requesting our response regarding compliance with this permit condition. On March 7, 1986, we sent them a letter responding to this request. A copy of this letter is attached for your information.

What does the fact say?

As the attached letter states, we do not feel that UP&L Co. must submit prints of all of the photography to the Forest Service due to the tremendous number of photographs and the cost involved. We do, however, feel that the photography must be available to the Forest Service for inspection on an as needed basis.

In addition, we feel that a complete set of the photography for the first year of the program (Baseline) and for the last year of monitoring, should be submitted to the Manti-LaSal National Forest prior to abandonment of the mine. This would provide a long-term record of the condition of the area for future planning and resource management. To be in full compliance with this condition, UP&L Co. should make a statement in the Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP) that the photography will be made available for inspection by the Forest Service upon request, and that the two sets of photography discussed above will be submitted to the Manti-LaSal National Forest upon final completion of the monitoring program following mine abandonment.

In paragraph 4 of our March 7 letter, it states that UP&L Co. must provide the Forest with a map which shows the total area covered by baseline photography, permit area and lease boundaries, land status and the location of all permanent monuments used for photogrammetric ground control. Upon review of the MRP, we found that Map 4-5 shows most of this information. It is, however, not complete. The three maps in this series need to be revised to show the location of the ground control monuments with the vertical and horizontal coordinates. This information is not presently contained in any of the annual subsidence reports nor in the MRP.

Even though not specifically addressed in the special permit condition, our March 7 letter (paragraph 3), discusses the lease requirement that vegetation monitoring be conducted in conjunction with subsidence and hydrologic monitoring. Since there is no commitment in the MRP to complete vegetation monitoring, UP&L Co. is not in compliance with the subject lease stipulations. The letter states that color-infrared (CIR) photography must be used to complete the vegetative monitoring. We feel that other methods could provide the required data and would be acceptable to the Forest Service, however, monitoring which would utilize CIR photography at five year intervals (corresponding to the five year permit periods) would be the least costly and the most efficient.

In order to be in compliance with the Manti-LaSal National Forest Special Permit Condition and the discussed lease stipulations, UP&L Co. should revise the MRP to include the above provisions. In addition, we would like to be informed by your office regarding the status of compliance with the other permit conditions.

If you have any questions, please contact the Forest Supervisor's Office in Price, Utah.

Sincerely,



for
GEORGE A. MORRIS
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Manti-LaSal
National Forest

599 West Price River Dr.
Price, Utah 84501

Reply to: 2820

Date: March 7, 1986

Richard Holbrook
U.S.D.I. Office of Surface Mining
Reclamation and Enforcement
Brooks Towers
1020 15th Street
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Mr. Holbrook:

Utah Power and Light Company has done a good job of monitoring subsidence in the East Mountain area as presented in their annual subsidence reports.

They are conducting their own photogrammetric survey which, based on the data presented in the reports, meets our requirements for monitoring subsidence. We do not need to receive copies of all of the photography discussed in the permit (UT-0016). We may, however at some time in the future, identify a need to obtain prints of aerial photography over certain areas to conduct comparisons of detected subsidence with surface resource trends. In any such case, we would work directly with company representatives.

Utah Power and Light Company's overall resource monitoring program, however, does not meet our requirements for monitoring vegetation and related surface resources in conjunction with subsidence monitoring. This can best be conducted by completing color infrared (CIR) photography for the entire permit areas (baseline) to be compared with subsequent CIR photography of the active mine areas and any existing workings within this area. The photography must be of adequate scale and quality to enable detection of vegetative and ground moisture trends and impacts on other Forest resources which may result from subsidence. At the present time, we believe that five year intervals would be sufficient, unless other specific needs are identified. In order to meet Forest requirements, the CIR photography must be completed and Utah Power and Light Company must incorporate an analysis of vegetative and available water trends into a separate annual report or include it into the hydrologic or subsidence monitoring reports.

In Addition, Utah Power and Light Company must provide the Manti-LaSal National Forest with a map which shows the total area covered by baseline photography, permit area and lease boundaries, land status and the location of all permanent monuments used for photographic ground control. The vertical and horizontal coordinates of each monument must also be provided with the map. The map must be a 1:63,360 scale or larger scale topographic map.

If you have any questions, please contact the Manti-LaSal National Forest Supervisor's Office in Price, Utah.

Sincerely,

/s/ William H. Boley

for
REED C. CHRISTENSEN
Forest Supervisor

cc: D-2
D-3
C. Reed