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3400
(U-067)

Moab District
San Rafael Resource Area
900 North 700 East
Price, Utah 84501

OCT 25 1988

RECEIVED
OCT 27 1988
DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

Mr. Bart Hyita
Director of Operational Engineering
Mining Division
Utah Power and Light Company
P. O. Box 310
Huntington, Utah 84528

Dear Mr. Hyita:

The two requests for modification of the approved Deer Creek mine plan have been reviewed by this office. The first request relates to the extraction of the longwall at crosscut 45. The second request pertains to the sterilization of the remainder of the D North longwall panel and using it as a protective barrier to protect other panels in this area of the mine.

Based upon the mine inspection of July 20, 1988, the Bureau of Land Management feels that the extraction was necessary. The Bureau verified the abutment pressure on the longwall face, headgate and tailgate. Mine roof and ground conditions in this area have been severely affected by channel scours, adjacent retreat mining, and the north-south direction of mining. These factors have contributed to unsafe pressure on the headgate and tailgate. It is the Bureau's opinion that the D North reserve area is no longer mineable and has approved the requested modification accordingly.

The Bureau responded to the second request by asking the company to consider the use of a miner and shuttle cars to extract some of the remaining reserves in D North longwall, rather than sterilization (approximately 400,000 tons of mineable coal). However, due to recent instability and pillar bounces caused by frontal longwall abutment pressure and the extremely heavy ride over on this area (the area from 10th Right including the 3rd West mains), it has been determined that if future mining in the 3rd South Mains is to be protected, the D North panel would have to be sterilized. Therefore, the company's second request is also approved.

If there are any questions, please contact Jim Ward at 637-4986.

Sincerely yours,

James Dryden

Area Manager

Enclosures (3):
1-Two request letters
2-Maps (approved)

cc: DM, Moab (U-065), w/enclosures
SD, Utah (U-921), w/enclosures
~~DCGM, w/enclosures~~
OSM, w/enclosures

JLWard:sw:ka:10/13/88
Wang 10610