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**Utah
power**
ELECTRIC COMPANY
MINING DIVISION
P.O. Box 310
Huntington, Utah 84528

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*Copy sent to
Brent 8-10-88
J.W.*

June 27, 1988

APPROVED

Mr. James Ward
Bureau of Land Management
Department of the Interior
900 North 700 East
Price, Utah 84501

SUBJECT: Deer Creek Mine "D" North Longwall Panel
Extraction Modification

Dear Sir:

Recent evaluation of the "D" North longwall panel in the Deer Creek Mine by Utah Power and Light Mining Division personnel has resulted in a decision to extract the longwall unit at x-cut 45 on the "D" North headgate. The longwall will mine approximately 90 feet of the "D" North panel to reach the extraction location. The effects on coal quality and ground control in mining this necessary distance will be substantial.

The "D" North longwall began operation in July of 1987 and has been idled intermittently during 6 months of production. The majority of idle periods were due to poor coal quality, difficult roof conditions, and damage propagated by longwall abutment forces on the 3rd South Mains.

Actual mined coal quality has exceeded initial ash projections by over 50 percent in 352,000 tons produced to date from "D" North. These ash levels have been consistently above acceptable limits for the power plant, and have hovered in the 20 percent range for days. Based on past ash levels, existing roof conditions, and coal quality surveys, projected ash will be from 14 to 25 percent for the remainder of the longwall panel. With the recent encounter of high-ash areas on the west-side longwall panels off the 3rd South Mains, there will be no blending source available to improve the quality of the "D" North production.

The immediate roof horizon in the "D" North longwall is composed of a weak mudstone which is susceptible to fracturing as the north-south oriented panel parallels the joint pattern. This fracturing tends to compound the high-ash problem through intermittent separation of the roof as the face is being mined. The fracturing has affected gate-end stability as the headgate has been injected with rock binder several times to maintain its integrity.

