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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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December 14, 1988

Mr. George Morris
Forest Supervisor
U S Forest Service
Manti-LaSal National Forest
599 West Price River Road
Price, Utah 84501

George

Dear Mr. Morris:

Re: Permit UT-0016, 10/85, Manti-LaSal National Forest Special Condition, Utah Power and Light Company, Deer Creek Mine, ACT/015/018, Folder #2, Emery County, Utah

This letter is in response to your correspondence of December 2, 1988, regarding the above-noted special condition. Your letter raises three issues, one related to the special condition in the old Deer Creek Mine Permit regarding the submission of photogrammetric maps for the purposes of subsidence monitoring, and issues related to lease requirements requiring monitoring of vegetation of the East Mountain area.

In researching the status of the special condition in the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) permit referenced above, this condition was satisfactorily addressed as noted in a March 20, 1986 letter from the OSM to Utah Power and Light Company (UP&L). Therefore, the Division considers this issue fully addressed. (UP&L is willing to provide the Manti-LaSal National Forest with access to air photos as needed.)

In regards to the requirements of Lease Stipulation No. 12 which imposes monitoring to locate, measure, and quantify the effects of underground mining activities on the topographic surface, underground and surface hydrology and vegetation, the Division previously raised this issue in the Wilberg mid-term review process. UP&L responded by including a commitment to conduct infrared photography during September 1987 (page 2-142-A, Wilberg PAP). UP&L did complete this photography in the fall of 1987. Unfortunately, no interval for subsequent monitoring was indicated.

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The Division will request UP&L to commit to an acceptable interval (5 years) to completely address this matter during the permit renewal of the Wilberg permit (July 1989).

One concern regarding the infrared photography is the interpretation of it. How will USFS personnel detect mining induced changes versus natural changes like beetle kill, etc.? Would you please provide the methodology that is recommended, to avoid any misinterpretation of the photographs.

Thank you for your review of this situation. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Lowell P. Braxton
Administrator
Mineral Resource Development
and Reclamation Program

JJW/djh
cc: D. Smaldone
J. Whitehead
AT7/63-64