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Mine file #2
R.V. Smith UB

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Manti-LaSal
National Forest

599 West Price River Dr.
Price, Utah 84501

Reply to: 2820

Date: May 9, 1989

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MAY 11 1989
DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

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

RE: Mid-Term Review Updates, Utah Power and Light Company, Deer Creek Mine, ACT/015/018, Folder #2, Emery County, Utah

Dear Lowell:

We have reviewed the already approved Mid-Term Review updates sent to our office on March 7, 1989. Since we did not receive notification of the Mid-term Review prior to approval of this material, we reviewed the updates and have the following comments:

1. Maps 2-10, 2-10B, 2-11, 2-11A, 2-12 and 2-12B show the Rilda Canyon leases (formerly held by West Appa Coal Co.) as part of the approved permit boundary. This is incorrect at the present time since Utah Power and Light Company has not yet submitted a Mine Plan Amendment to include these leases into the permit area. In addition, the permit boundary shown on these maps is not consistent with the other maps.

2. The revised seed mix shown on pages 4-18 and 4-22 are not suitable for reclamation of that portion of the portal area which lies on National Forest System lands, nor for the breakouts which lie on National Forest System lands. The seed mixes need to be revised before reclamation is initiated for these areas to be consistent with pre-mining and post-mining land uses of National Forest System lands in accordance with the Manti-LaSal National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. Please have your reclamation specialist work directly with Bob Thompson of our office on this issue.

3. On page 4-28-A, weed control is discussed. It is stated that no treatment of weeds will take place unless it is determined necessary due to weed dominance delayed rate of succession. This discussion is acceptable for non-noxious weeds. For noxious weeds, action must be taken immediately to eradicate them if they invade the reclaimed area.

4. Reclamation of the North Fork Meetinghouse Breakout is not covered in Chapter 4 - Reclamation.

5. On page 3-4, new breakouts in the South Fork of Meetinghouse Canyon and Rilda Canyon are discussed. Utah Power and Light Company needs to be reminded that these facilities will need to be proposed according to appropriate permitting procedures. Forest Service consent will be contingent upon conducting an environmental analysis of the proposals. As much lead time as possible needs to be allowed for conducting field reviews, obtaining public comment, preparation of the NEPA document and documenting the consent decision. Utah Power and Light Company should allow at least 60 days for the permitting procedure and make sure that the modification is submitted during the time of year that the field reviews can be conducted. The needed time for processing of the North Fork Meetinghouse Breakout (proposed in 1986) was not allowed for by Utah Power and Light Company and the result was a significant delay and rescheduling of mining activity in the breakout area.

6. As a note to DOGM and Utah Power and Light Company, the MRP Amendment for addition of the Rilda Canyon leases and proposed facilities will need to include provisions for plugging and reclamation of the water monitoring wells drilled by West Appa Coal Company and the other water monitoring facilities not already under special-use permit to the North Emery Water Users Association.

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

Sincerely,

James L. Horne
for
GEORGE A. MORRIS
Forest Supervisor