

0037

Act 101510

cc P. L. 1015

Big mine file  
Duffy  
L. [unclear]



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING  
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT  
BROOKS TOWERS  
1020 15TH STREET  
DENVER, COLORADO 80202



In Reply Refer To:

March 21, 1990

RECEIVED  
MAR 28 1990

DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING

Dr. Dianne Nielson  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
355 W.N. Temple  
3 Triad Center, Suite 350  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180

Dear Dr. Nielson:

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) has completed an initial review of Utah Power and Light Company's permit application package (PAP) for extending underground mining operations at the Deer Creek mine into Federal leases U-7653, U-47977, SL-050862, and U-06039 (collectively known as the Rilda Canyon Lease Tract). We offer the following comments for your consideration and action.

A copy of any new bonds or bond riders should be forwarded by Utah DOGM to OSM upon receipt by Utah DOGM.

The Deer Creek mine is in the Upper Colorado River Basin and may affect endangered fishes in the river. Therefore, OSM is required to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Endangered Species Act before the mining plan can be approved. Before OSM may begin consultation, UP&L must provide an estimate of any additional average annual depletion of surface flow (acre-feet) that will result from the proposed extension of operations into the Rilda Canyon Lease Tract.

Upon receipt, please forward a copy of the proof of publication of the newspaper advertisement.

Under the cooperative agreement, Utah DOGM will prepare, in cooperation with OSM, an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed action. The EA should be prepared in accordance with OSM's EA format and guidance document. The U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Manti-La Sal National Forest prepared an environmental assessment for the leasing of the Rilda Canyon Lease Tract. That document should be reviewed and referenced in the EA that you will prepare. Please forward at your earliest convenience a draft of the EA for our review.

Check can (to esp) agreement: Do we do this, in OSM?

The PAP identifies future surface disturbances (i.e., breakouts and new portals), but is not specific about their location and extent. The general location and extent (number of acres) of such disturbances and their environmental effects must be discussed in the EA.

A minor correction is suggested for Map 3-5: It should be identified as "Deer Creek Mine" and the Deer Creek and Cottonwood mining areas should be clearly labeled.

Please notify us of your schedule for processing the PAP so that we may schedule our other work accordingly.

If you have any questions, please contact Richard Holbrook or me at (303) 844-2400.

Sincerely,

*M J Granberg*  
*acting*  
Ranvir Singh, Chief  
Federal Lands Branch

Enclosure

cc: Albuquerque Field Office  
BLM, Moab District Office  
Manti-La Sal National Forest  
USFWS Salt Lake City