

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Manti-La Sal
National Forest

Price Ranger District
599 West Price River Dr.
Price, Utah 84501

0057

Plan route to files
Copy DAM

Reply to: 2820 *File ACT/05/018*

Date: May 18, 1992 *#2*

*Ord. exploration
file*

Lowell Braxton
Utah Department of Natural Resources
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

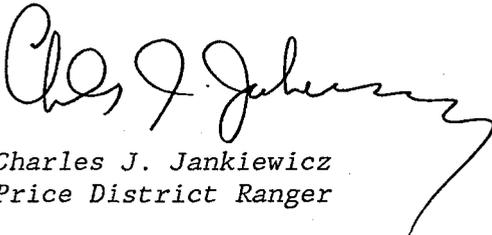
Dear Lowell:

The Manti-La Sal National Forest is currently evaluating a proposal filed by PacifiCorp with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOG M) to conduct coal exploration drilling on East Mountain near the head of the North Fork of Meetinghouse Canyon about 10 miles northwest of Huntington, Utah. PacifiCorp is proposing to drill up to 6 holes to evaluate an intercepted fault in their current Deer Creek Mine development. All of the holes are located on Federal lands with the Forest boundary and on Federal coal leases U-024319 and SL-050862.

As surface management agency for these lands, the Forest Service is required to conduct an environmental analysis. The Price Ranger District is in the process of preparing this analysis for this proposal and is seeking input from the public.

Location maps and a copy of the project Scoping Document have been enclosed for your information. If you have any questions regarding this project, don't hesitate to contact us at the above address or call us at (801) 637-2817. Any comments on the proposal should be submitted by May 29, 1992.

Sincerely,



Charles J. Jankiewicz
Price District Ranger

enclosures

RECEIVED

MAY 21 1992

DIVISION OF
OIL GAS & MINING

MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST
PROJECT SCOPING DOCUMENT

DATE: 05/12/92

DISTRICT NAME: Price

FILE CODE: 2820

1. PROJECT NAME: PacifiCorp's 1992 6-hole Coal Exploration Drilling Program On East Mountain, EM-149 Through EM-154.
2. RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: George A. Morris
3. PROPOSAL: PacifiCorp has proposed to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGGM) to conduct a 6-hole coal exploration project on two of their Federal coal leases (U-024319 and SL-050862) on East Mountain. Five of the holes are located within the Deer Creek Mine permit area (U-024319) and are being handled by DOGGM as an amendment to that permit. Hole EM-152 is located on Federal lease SL-050862 outside the mine permit area and the approval will be coordinated by the BLM. Since all 6 holes are located on Federal lands within the boundaries of the Manti-La Sal National Forest, both the BLM and DOGGM have requested Forest Service comments and recommendations for approval. Please see attached maps for locations.

The objective of the proposal is to evaluate coal quality and elevation and nature of the rock strata in a recently encountered fault zone. Conventional surface access to the 6 hole locations would be gained by the use of existing FDRs, reopening about 1300 feet of reclaimed access, and constructing about 1700 feet of new access. The project would start in late June or early July and be completed during the 1992 field season.

4. TIERING AND REFERENCING OPPORTUNITIES: Manti-La Sal National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement, November, 1986 (Forest Plan and FEIS); EA for NEICO's Proposed 6-Hole, Helicopter-Supported Coal Exploration Drilling Program, UTU-65418, Northern East Mountain, Emery County, Utah 8/89; EA UP&L Proposed Coal Exploration on East Mountain and Rilda Canyon, 1986, As Amended; EA for UP&L Coal Exploration Drilling on East Mountain (Meetinghouse Canyon), 7/1/87.
5. OTHER AGENCIES OR PUBLICS INVOLVED: BLM and DOGGM. A news release was submitted to the Sun Advocate and the Emery County Progress for publication. Letters will be sent to identified interested publics inviting scoping comments on the proposal.
6. EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT: Disturbance to wildlife from increased traffic and human presence (noise and activity) would occur during the project. The removal of vegetation for road and pad site construction could temporarily decrease the productiveness of the areas and increase soil loss.

- 7. ISSUES: No new, unmitigated issues have been identified for this project above and beyond those previously described in the aforementioned tiering documents.
- 8. SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVES: 1) No Action, 2) Proposed Action with Forest Service mitigations (from Appendix B of the Forest Plan), which includes possible modification of locations and access methods.
- 9. ANALYSIS AND DECISION CRITERIA: Management decisions and guidelines as defined in the Forest Plan. The Management Emphasis for the project area is General Winter Range (GWR) and Production of Forage (RNG). The General GWR Direction in the Forest Plan for Minerals and Transportation Management (pages III-62 and 63) is 1) "Modify, delay, or deny mineral leasing, exploration, and/or surface occupancy, where applicable, if they cause unacceptable stress on big game or unmitigated damage to their habitat." 2) "Allow new roads to meet management needs. Obliterate and rehabilitate temporary roads within one season after planned use ends." 3) Close and/or restrict road use as appropriate to reduce stress on big game animals." The General RNG Direction for General Minerals Management (page III-66 of the Forest Plan) is 1) "Provide appropriate mitigation measures to assure continued livestock access and use." 2) "Those authorized to conduct developments will be required to replace losses through appropriate mitigations, where a site-specific development adversely affects long-term production or management."

10. ANALYSIS SKILLS:

SPECIALTY	SPECIALIST	ROLE (team leader, team member consultant, other)
District Ranger	Charlie Jankiewicz	Member
Wildlife Biology	Rod Player	Member
Wildlife Biology	Steve Romero	Member
Botany/Range	Bob Thompson	Member
Geology/Minerals	Walt Nowak	Team Leader

11. SCHEDULE:

- a. Initial Meeting: 05/13/92
- b. Field Review: 05/13/92
- c. ID Team Meeting: 05/13/92
- d. EA Draft: ___/___/___
- e. S.O. Decision Memorandum: 06/15/92
- f. Project Implementation: 07/05/92

12. PROPOSED LEVEL OF ANALYSIS:

- Requires further assessment: _____
- Requires minimal assessment: _____
- Requires no further assessment: X
- Categorical Exclusion: _____

Chris J. Johnson
District Ranger

5/15/92
Date

T.10S.

T.11S.

T.10S.

T.11S.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

MANTI-LASAL NATIONAL FOREST
MANTI DIVISION
UTAH

T.12S.

SALT LAKE MERIDIAN

1959'

SCALE



LEGEND

- NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY
- ADJACENT NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY
- MAIN MOTOR HIGHWAY
- GOOD MOTOR ROAD
- POOR MOTOR ROAD
- TRAIL
- RAILROAD
- TELEPHONE LINE
- SUPERVISOR'S HEADQUARTERS
- DISTRICT RANGER STATION
- GUARD OR RANGER STATION NOT PERMANENTLY OCCUPIED
- TRIANGULATION STATION
- FOREST SERVICE MONUMENT
- HOUSE, CABIN OR OTHER BUILDING
- MINE OR QUARRY
- ELECTRIC POWER STATION

T.13S.

T.14S.

MAP 1
PACIFICORP'S
1992 COAL DRILLING
EAST MOUNTAIN

T.15S.

T.16S.

T.17S.

T.18S.

T.19S.

T.20S.

T.21S.

T.12S.

R.8E.

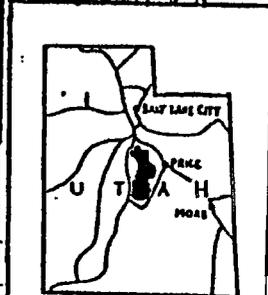
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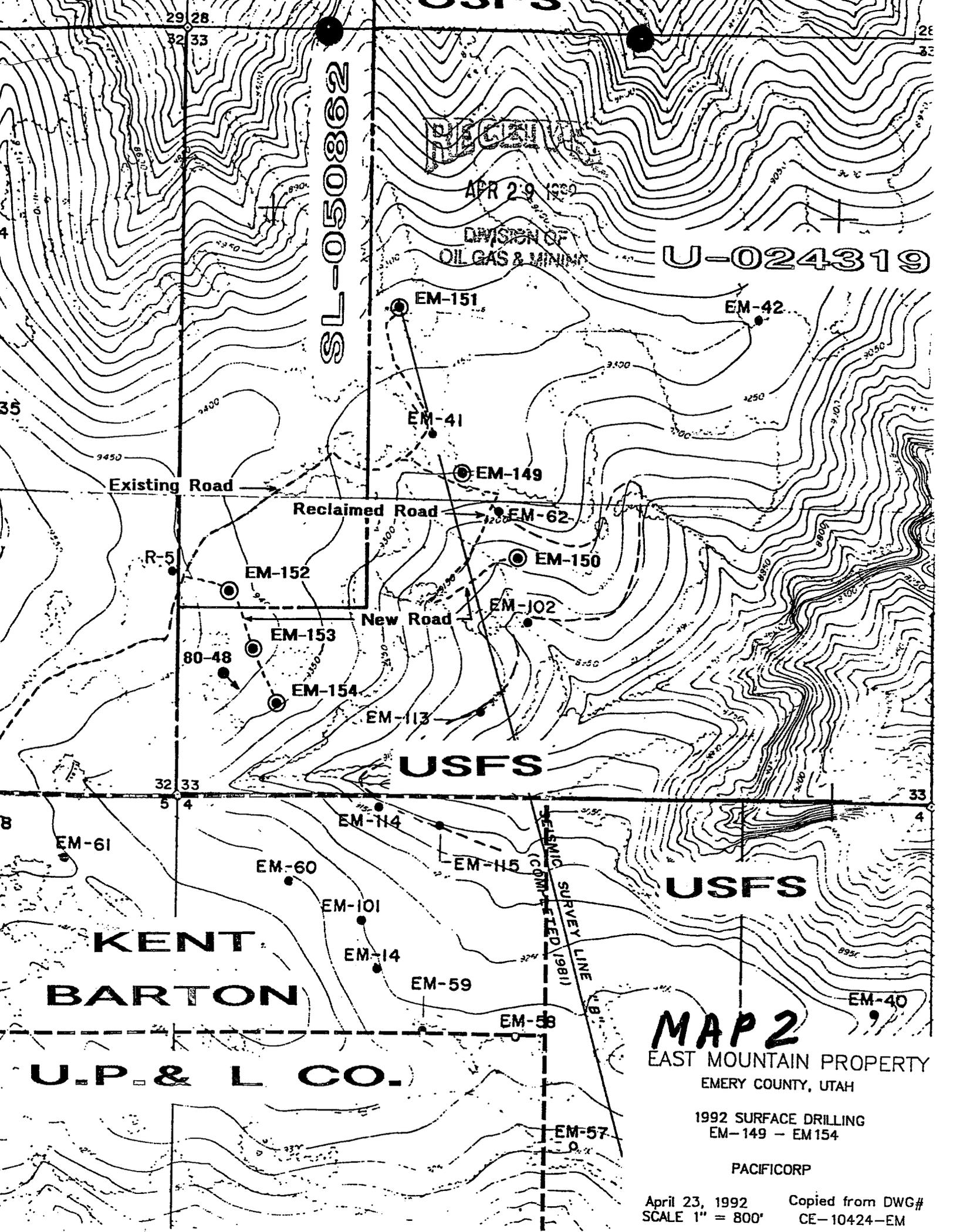
T.19S.

T.20S.

T.21S.

PROJECT
AREA





RECLAIMED

APR 29 1992

DIVISION OF
OIL GAS & MINING

U-024319

SL-050862

Existing Road

Reclaimed Road

New Road

USFS

USFS

**KENT
BARTON**

U.P. & L CO.

MAP 2
EAST MOUNTAIN PROPERTY
EMERY COUNTY, UTAH

1992 SURFACE DRILLING
EM-149 - EM 154

PACIFICORP

April 23, 1992 Copied from DWG#
SCALE 1" = 800' CE-10424-EM