

NOTICE AND REQUEST FOR COMMENT

**ENERGY WEST, DEER CREEK MINE, COAL EXPLORATION 2001
MILL FORK STATE LEASE ML-48258
USDA - FOREST SERVICE
MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST
EAST MOUNTAIN
EMERY COUNTY, UTAH**

Energy West Mining Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of PacifiCorp, proposes to modify the approved surface exploration plan to add an additional drill hole in southwest portion of the lease tract for the 2001 field season. The drill hole would be located in T.16 S., R. 6E., Sec. 22. The modification to the project would consist of re-drilling a hole completed in September 1975 by the Utah Geological and Mineral Survey (UGMS) to a depth of 1,200 feet deep to provide information necessary to evaluate the geologic stratigraphy, structure, hazards, and validate the geologic potential of the area's coal reserves on PacifiCorp's existing Mill Fork State Lease ML-48258. All disturbances would be properly reclaimed and seeded. No roads or drill pads will be constructed.

The Forest Service must decide whether or not to authorize occupancy and use, by issuing a modification to Energy West Mining Company Special Use Permit for exploration drilling activity.

Drilling of this proposed hole is to be by a single-axial truck mounted rig with brattice cloth covering the area to be disturbed, thus causing minimal surface impact. For this reason, it is anticipated that this action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA analysis (EA or EIS) under category 31.2 (3), "Approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of National Forest System lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land". No extraordinary circumstances have been identified.

Comments are invited on this proposal. To ensure consideration, comments should be sent to Carter Reed at the Manti-LaSal National Forest, Ferron-Price Ranger District, 599 West Price River Drive by **September 11, 2001**. To obtain further information about this project, contact Mr. Carter Reed at (435) 637-2817. If you choose to participate, please make your comments as specific as possible. All received comments will be considered. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses, would be considered part of the public record and would be available for public inspection.

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