



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Manti-La Sal
National Forest

Supervisor's Office
599 West Price River Drive
Price, UT 84501
Phone # (435) 637-2817
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File Code: 2820-4

Date: March 19, 2004

Peter Rutledge
Chief Program Support Division
Office of Surface Mining
P.O. Box 46667
Denver, CO 80201-6667

*Incoming
c/o 15/0018
Copy to Aaron - FAM
- May Ann*

RE: PacifiCorp "Deer Creek" Mine - Application for Permit Revision, North Rilda Facilities Area

Dear Peter Rutledge:

In response to your letter, dated March 10, 2004, the Manti-La Sal National Forest will participate in preparation of Environmental Assessment for the proposed new mine facilities in Rilda Canyon on the Manti-La Sal National Forest pursuant to the MOU between OSM and the Forest Service for Management of Surface Coal Mining Operations on National Forest System Lands, 1990.

As the Surface Management Agency for the lands involved, the Forest Service must consent/concur with the post-mining land use and conditions for protection of non-mineral interests. In addition, the Manti-La Sal National Forest must decide whether or not to modify/re-issue an easement issued to Emery County for operation and maintenance of the Rilda Canyon Road under the National Forest Roads and Trails Act of 1964. The proposed Mine Plan Modification includes relocating the County road to accommodate surface facilities and ensure unimpaired access to National Forest System lands and permitted special uses that lie west of the proposed facilities. This connected action requires the Forest to make NEPA sufficient decisions, with public participation and analysis of a range of alternatives with appropriate mitigations, to meet Forest Plan direction for management/protection of National Forest System resources.

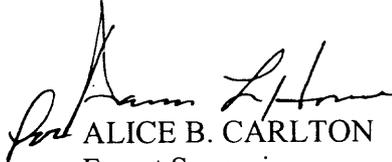
We plan to meet with representatives from your office, the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, the Bureau of Land Management on March 23, 2004 as proposed to coordinate these efforts.

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DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING



If you have any questions, please contact Aaron Howe, Manti-La Sal National Forest at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Price, Utah.

Sincerely,


ALICE B. CARLTON
Forest Supervisor

cc:

Sally Wisely, BLM Utah State Office

Mary Ann Wright, DOGM

Regional Forester, Intermountain Region

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