



Rilda Expansion
Env Ass
Public Comment # 15

Public Lands Department

Ray Petersen, Administrator

INCOMING
C/0150018

May 26, 2004

Luci Malin
Utah Division of Oil Gas and Mining
1594 West North Temple
Suite 1210
P.O. Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

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DIV. OF OIL GAS & MINING

Re: Construction of New Facilities in Rilda Canyon, PacifiCorp, Deer Creek Mine,
C/015/0018.

Emery County appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed project. We understand that our comments will be used by DOGM in determining whether to grant the permit change application, grant the application after modification, or deny the permit change application.

North Emery Water Users use water obtained from a spring system in Rilda Canyon. It is vital that all activity associated with this project be accomplished without impacting this spring system. The location of the project down canyon and down stream from the springs should accomplish this. Measures should be taken to eliminate airborne dusting problems and potential contamination of the springs. The water line from the spring collection system will need to be protected from damage as construction activity is underway, or possibly relocated.

We understand that Utah Division of Wildlife Resources has concerns about placing the stream in a culvert as proposed, coal dust and sedimentation from the pad and other impact to habitat. Project planning as well as mitigation will obviously be necessary.

It is our understanding that livestock grazing isn't an issue at the proposed site but that the mouth of the canyon gets some use as cattle trail up or down Huntington Canyon. This issue is apparently outside the scope of this project, although Emery County would desire that no loss of grazing would result from implementation of the project.

Rilda Canyon Road #306 is an Emery County Road. Relocation of or any other impact on this public road will require cooperation with Emery County Road Department to ensure that the county travel system is not compromised.

Emery County is confident that these concerns can be addressed adequately and that the project can be implemented. The current and future energy demands locally, regionally and nationally should dictate an urgency to make this project happen in a reasonable and timely manner.

Regards,

Ray D. Petersen