



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Manti-La Sal  
National Forest

*4/15/08 Incoming  
cc: Steve D.  
Jim S.      α*

Ferron/Price Ranger District  
Ferron Work Center  
115 West Canyon Road  
P.O. Box 310  
Ferron, UT 84523  
Phone # (435) 384-2372  
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File Code: 2820-Coal

Date: April 26, 2011

Ms. Dana Dean  
Associate Director, Mining  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining  
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210  
PO Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

**RECEIVED**  
**APR 27 2011**  
**DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING**

Dear Interested Party:

I am considering issuing a Special Use Permit authorizing surface occupancy to PacifiCorp-Energy West Mining to conduct exploration drilling in the East Mountain and Crandall Canyon areas. PacifiCorp-Energy West Mining has submitted a Special Use Permit Application for surface occupancy on the Manti-La Sal National Forest (MLNF) to drill two helicopter-assisted exploration borings and one low impact trailer mounted drill location for coal exploration. These holes are proposed to further define coal reserves on Utah State Coal Lease ML-48258 (an outstanding mineral estate). The project would be on surface lands administered by the USDA Forest Service, Manti-La Sal National Forest (MLNF) during the 2011 field season. The Special Use Permit would authorize drilling activities on the Forest surface with conditions to protect non-coal resources.

Drilling techniques used by Energy West are chosen for their low environmental impacts and maximum geological and hydrological data return. The exploratory drilling is necessary to provide Energy West with subsurface data necessary to evaluate the coal seam thickness, coal quality, and further characterize the geology of the area's coal reserves for mine planning and development.

No new roads are proposed. Only minimal vegetation would be removed during drilling operations. Helicopter assisted drilling creates a minimal amount of surface disturbance. The drilling pad usually encompasses a 40 foot by 40 foot drilling pad area covered by an impervious material resulting in very little temporary surface use (0.03 acres/site = potential 0.09 acres) requiring minimal reclamation effort. Staging and transport of the trailer mounted drilling rig will be confined to the existing Forest System Roads in the Mill Fork Canyon staging area. Helicopter assisted drilling has proven to be very low impact on the environment (See Figures 1, 2, 3). There is very little ground disturbance and full reclamation occurs within a year. Drilling fluids are water based and contained on-site. Drilling fluids are usually lost to the subsurface through intra-formational fractures during drilling and soils are not contaminated. Water for drilling would be pumped through a one inch diameter high-pressure hose from the nearest water



source to the drill location. No clearing of vegetation is contemplated for the water hose placement would be temporary.

Helicopter flights are managed to minimize impacts to wildlife. Flights adhere to recommended buffer zones around nesting raptors, and flights maintaining adequate altitude over deer and elk. Helicopter staging areas would be in Mill Fork Canyon (along Forest System Road #245).



Figure 1 – Typical location before drilling



Figure 2 – Typical location during drilling



Fig. 3 -- Typical location one year after drilling/reclamation

The general location of the proposed drilling is in the Upper Joes Valley area about 14 miles northwest of Huntington, in Emery County, UT: Township 16 South, Range 6 East, S.L.B&M, Section 1: SE/4, Section 23: SE/4. (Please see attached map).

The public is invited to comment on our proposed action. This decision is not subject to appeal pursuant to Forest Service regulations 36 CFR 215. Comments received, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project and will be available for public inspection. Comments should include the information required pursuant to 36 CFR 215.6(a)(3), as published in the Federal Register on June 4, 2003. Comments should be received on or before May 15, 2011. Send comments to: Darren Olsen, Ferron/Price District Ranger, PO Box 310, Ferron, UT 84523. Questions concerning the proposed action should be directed to Joseph N. DiBenedetto at (435) 636-3578.

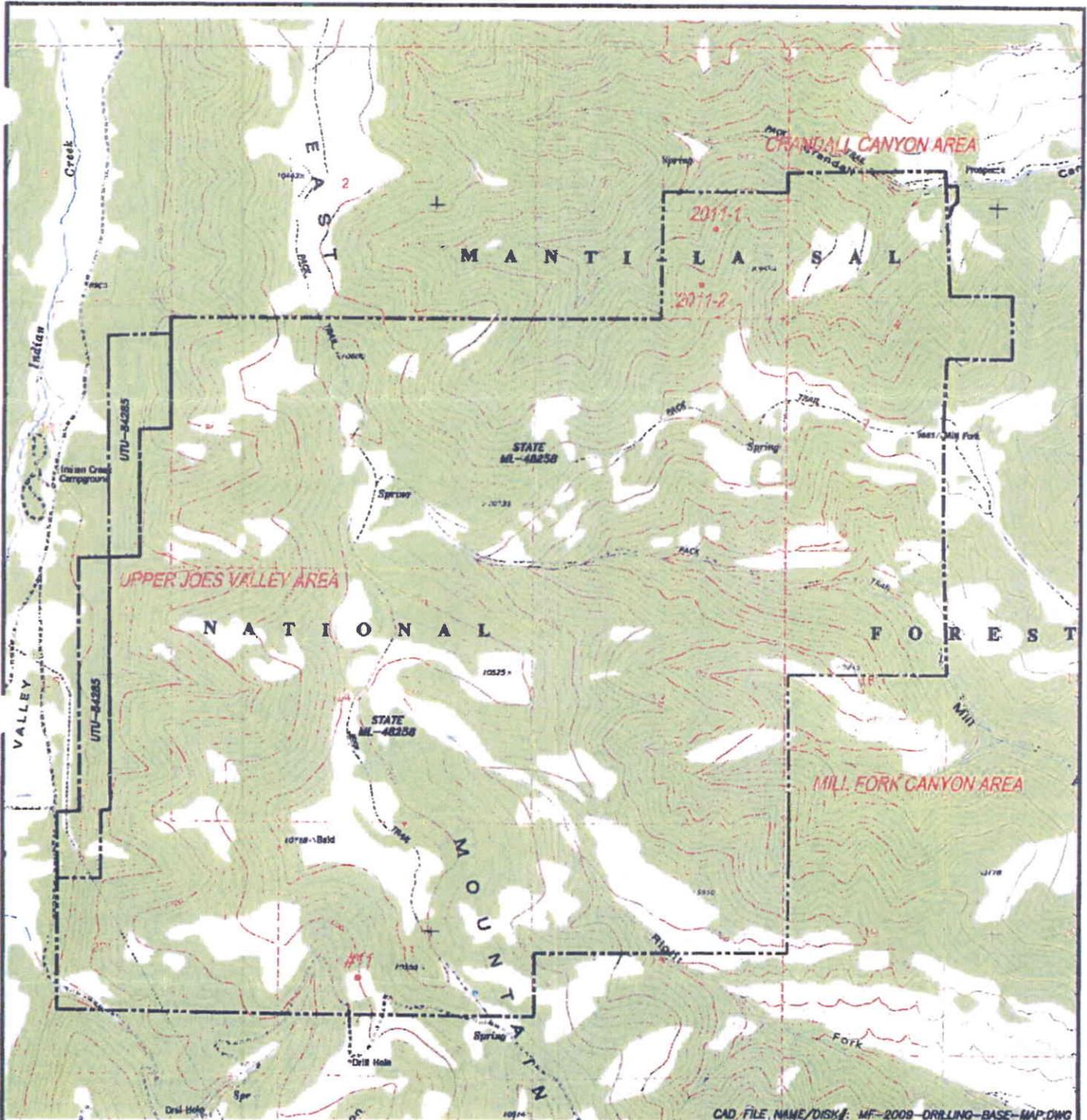
Sincerely,



Darren Olsen  
Ferron/Price District Ranger

Enclosure

cc: Joseph N DiBenedetto



CAD FILE NAME/DISK: MF-2009-DRILLING-BASE-MAP.DWG

2011-1 Proposed 2011 Drill Hole



Modified from Rilda Quadrangle 7.5 Minute Series

**ENERGY WEST MINING COMPANY**  
A SUBSIDIARY OF PACIFICORP

2011 COAL EXPLORATION  
UTAH STATE COAL LEASE ML-48258  
GENERAL LOCATION MAP

DRAWN BY:	K. LARSEN	DRAWING #:	....
SCALE:	1" = 3000'	SHEET	1 OF 1
DATE:	JANUARY 28, 2011	REV.	___