



United States Department of the Interior  
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING  
Reclamation and Enforcement  
BROOKS TOWERS  
1020 15TH STREET  
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

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OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

31 JAN 1980

RECEIVED

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DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING

Mr. Ron Daniels  
Coordinator of Mined Land Development  
Utah Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
1588 West North Temple  
Salt Lake City, UT 84116

Dear Mr. Daniels:

The following comments were transmitted to us from the U.S. Geological Survey on the Cottonwood Portal Exploration Permit:

1. This application is referred to as a geotechnical exploration project. To us it appears to be designed to get a head start on the Cottonwood Portal of the Wilberg mine modification plan dated September 17, 1979.
2. The narrative states that the final reclamation is to be accomplished at the conclusion of mining operations. It is also implied that the portal will be covered if reclamation is required. The methods of accomplishing the reclamation and location of the coal sample (implied portal) are not clearly stated.
3. If a permit is approved, the proposed exploration program outlined in the application could be adapted to the Wilberg mine plan modification.
4. Address and telephone numbers of surface owners are missing.
5. There should be a brief description, with maps where applicable, of geology, water, vegetation, cultural resources, and other physical factors. This description should include the distribution, abundance and habitat of fish and wildlife, particularly threatened and endangered species that may be affected by the proposed operation. The description should cover the area where exploration is to be conducted. The company should also discuss the present land use within and adjacent to the area affected.
6. More information is necessary on the method of exploration and types of equipment to be used. Several times, reference is made to an exploratory portal, but its location and size is never defined.

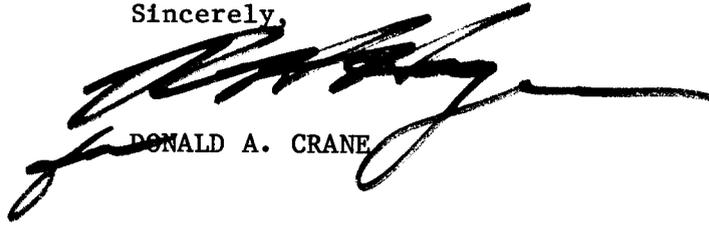
Mr. Daniels

-2-

7. Map exhibits should have more information:
  - Exhibit 1---A legend would help
  - Exhibit 2---Location of coal removal
  - Exhibit 3---Federal leases should be identified by lease number and boundary.

The comments are in addition to OSM's earlier concerns on the exploration permit, which are still outstanding.

Sincerely,



DONALD A. CRANE