

File
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January 4, 1980

#2

Mr. Donald A. Crane
Director
Office of Surface Mining
Brooks Towers
1020 15th Street
Denver, Colorado 80202

RE: Cottonwood Portal Exploration

Dear Don:

The Division appreciates your staff's comments concerning the exploration plan submitted by Utah Power and Light Company for the proposed Cottonwood Portal of the Wilberg Mine.

The Division is acting on the premise that the proposal is exploratory in nature. As we all are still operating under the interim regulatory program, and the proposal affects fee land only the exploration project was approved by the Division on October 18, 1979.

Unfortunately, your staff's comments were not received until November 16, 1979. However, I would like to reply to the comments.

1. The Division does not feel that a wildlife study is justified at this time. It is the Division's understanding that deer and elk use the area for migration only in years of severe winters. The proposal is for a short-term period of operation that should not seriously impact wildlife.

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2. The Division feels that adequate information is provided for the determination of pre-mining contour. The Division will require that the specifics of the seed mixture data, i.e. mixture and rate, be submitted for approval by the Division prior to final reclamation.
3. The Division will assure that adequate berms are constructed and maintained through field inspection. A stipulation of the Division's approval was for the removal and segregation of topsoil from the proposed rock storage area.
4. A stipulation of the Division's approval was for the seeding of a temporary grass cover of the disturbed areas.
5. The Division agrees that an archeological clearance is not needed.

If you have any additional comment or question please feel free to call.

Sincerely,



RONALD W. DANIELS
COORDINATOR OF MINED LAND DEVELOPMENT

RWD/te