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FILE ACT/ 1019 #2

To Mary

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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
UTAH STATE OFFICE
136 E. SOUTH TEMPLE
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84111

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SL-064900
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JIM
MAY 16 1984
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DIVISION OF OIL
GAS & MINING

Memorandum

To: Utah Senior Project Manager, Office of Surface Mining, Denver

Attention: Ms. Shirley Lindsay

From: Chief, Branch of Mining Law and Solid Minerals, BLM-SO,
Salt Lake City

Subject: Utah Power and Light Company, Wilberg Coal Mine, Permit Application
Package (PAP)

The Resource Recovery and Protection Plan (R2P2) or underground mining part of the subject PAP has been considered adequate for BLM administration of the associated Federal coal leases. Our memorandum dated January 13, 1984, stated that the R2P2 is compatible with 43 CFR 3482.1(c) rules and regulations, that it is technically correct and should achieve maximum economic recovery of the coal deposits within the plan area.

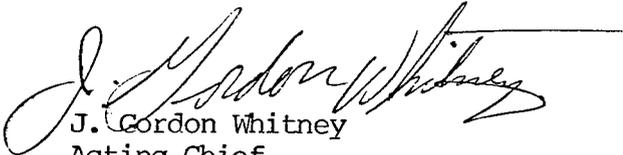
On May 9, 1984, we received supplemental material to the subject PAP that was transmitted with Stephen Manger's memorandum dated May 7, 1984. The memorandum indicated CSM was proceeding with their final technical analysis and requested that we provide a final letter of concurrence. We have reviewed the supplemental material and have determined there are no conflicts with the planned coal recovery procedures or with future recovery of coal resources.

On May 1, 1984, an on-site technical analysis check was conducted at the Wilberg Mine by the involved Federal agencies. Apparently it was felt by some that the mining plan did not provide adequate measures for the protection of escarpments or to minimize creation of hazardous conditions.

Even without mining being involved, most escarpments in the western coal fields are potentially hazardous. In our review of the Wilberg mine plan we have determined that the protective barriers as shown on the mine maps are designed to control mine ventilation and to minimize impacts along the escarpment where the coal seams outcrop. Mining along the outcrop will conform to mining systems approved by the Mine Health and Safety Administration. The operations will be field inspected by BLM mining personnel at least four times a year on a quarterly basis. Conditions encountered along the outcrop will be inspected and discussed with mine management. If changes are needed the modified plans will involve input from the company, BLM, the regulatory authority, and the surface managers or owners. This procedure is consistent with Federal lease

U-47978 terms, page 9, paragraph 15, which reads in part " . . .and determine any corrective measures considered necessary to assure that escarpment failure does not occur except at specifically approved locations or that hazardous conditions are not created." Performance standards at 43 CFR 3484 require that underground mining operations be conducted to assure that maximum economic recovery of the coal resource will be obtained in a safe manner. PLM must approve plans that are consistent with known technology, that will maximize mine stability, and, as required, maintain the value and use of surface lands.

Within the limits of our authority we concur with the Wilberg Mine R2P2 plan on file in this office as amended and recommend that it be included as an integral part of the subject PAP.


J. Gordon Whitney
Acting Chief

cc: UP&L