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file ACT/015/019  
cc. J. Whitcomb #2

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Manti-LaSal  
National Forest

599 West Price River Drive  
Price, Utah 84501

Reply to: 2820

Date: December 23, 1987

Lowell Braxton  
State of Utah Natural Resources  
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
355 West North Temple  
3 Triad Center, Suite 350  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

RECEIVED  
DEC 28 1987

DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING

Dear Lowell:

Enclosed is a copy of the Forest Service Finding of No Significant Impact/Decision Notice (FONSI/DN) regarding Utah Power and Light Company's proposed longwall mining under the escarpments in Miller and Newberry Canyons. The Forest Service decision involves National Forest System lands.

The alternatives discussed in the Forest Service Environmental Assessment (EA) and FONSI/DN were modified to be consistent and in agreement with the results of the interagency meeting held at the Manti-LaSal National Forest Supervisor's Office in Price, Utah, on December 17, 1987. The Forest Service, BLM and Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining were represented. A copy of the sign-in sheet circulated during the meeting is attached for reference.

The company's proposal, UP&L's 1987 report and management concerns of the agencies were discussed. The major concern expressed by the agencies is the present lack of information regarding subsidence and the long-term effects of longwall mining under escarpment areas. Based on the information considered, it was determined that a flexible approach to approval of the proposal is necessary to provide for maximum recovery of coal in the permit area, mitigation of impacts and future modifications based on new information from subsidence and resource monitoring.

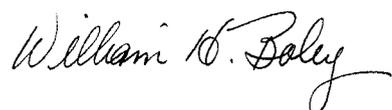
Alternatives to the proposal were then discussed. The agencies agreed that the Castlegate Sandstone outcrop along the 9th and 10th west panels in Miller Canyon must be reasonably protected due to resource concerns in this area. A compromise was initiated, involving measures to be taken to protect the Castlegate Sandstone outcrop. It was determined that the panels would need to be shortened on the west end by projecting a 15° angle-of-draw from the base of the outcrop eastward down to the coal seam. The longwall panels could begin at this point on the coal seam.

Since little information is available at this time, it was determined that mining of the other panels, in sequence, could be further modified from the 15° angle-of-draw scenario based on results of the mining of the 9th west panel and other information that may be made available.

The Forest Service decision to consent to this alternative is documented in the FONSI/DN as approval of Alternative 3 (Modified Mine Plan). This decision is subject to mitigations discussed in the EA which will follow.

If you have any questions, contact the Forest Supervisor's Office in Price, Utah.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William H. Boley".

WILLIAM H. BOLEY  
Acting Forest Supervisor

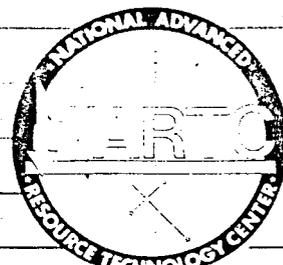
Enclosures



# ADVANCED MINERALS MANAGEMENT

MINERALS MEETING  
12/17/87  
MANTI LA SAL NAT FOR.

Bill Boley	FOREST ENGR	USFS	Price Utah
Carter Reed	Forest Geologist	"	"
Jim W. Hatch	District Ranger	USFS	Price
Mark R Chatterton	Ferron District Geologist	USFS	Ferron
WALTER F. NOWAK	PRICE DISTRICT GEOLOGIST	"	PRICE
Rod Player	Wildlife Biologist	USFS	Price
Stephen Falk	Mining Eng.	BLM	Price
John Niebergall	District Ranger	USFS	Ferron
LEE SPENCER	Reclamation Mining Engineer	DOGIM, UTAH	SLC, UT
Jim Ward	Coal mine engineer	Low Prof. BLM	Price Utah
SHANNON D. HOFFERLE	MINING ENG	BLM	MOAB, UT.
Tricia Powell	Geologist	BLM	moab
Brent Northrup	Chief Solid Minerals	BLM	moab
Kenneth V Rhea	Associate District Mgr	BLM	Moab
John Whitehead	Permit Supervisor	DOGIM	SLC
Brent Stettler	biologist	DOGIM	SLC
Wayne Ludington	biologist	BLM	Price,
GEORGE MORRIS	FOREST SUPERVISOR	USFS	PRICE
Larry Eyr	chief, lands & minerals	BLM	Price



DECISION NOTICE  
AND  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

UTAH POWER AND LIGHT  
LONGWALL MINING UNDER THE ESCARPMENT  
IN MILLER AND NEWBERRY CANYONS

Utah Power and Light Company has proposed to longwall mine under the escarpment in Newberry and Miller Canyons within their Wilberg/Cottonwood Mine Permit Area. Removal of coal by longwall mining as proposed is known to cause escarpment failure in the form of rock falls, topplings, and foundation failures. Similar mining activity has occurred in a portion of the north side of Newberry Canyon. The effects of the previous longwall mining in Newberry Canyon and the anticipated effect of continued use of longwall mining in Newberry and Miller Canyons have been assessed. The Forest Service Environmental Assessment which discusses the proposal and alternatives is available for review at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Price, Utah and the Ferron Ranger District Office in Ferron, Utah. In addition, a report prepared by Utah Power and Light Company entitled: "Assessment of Mining Related Impacts in Newberry Canyon, Cottonwood Coal Mine, Emery County, Utah, December, 1987" is available for review at the referenced Forest Service Offices and Utah Power and Light Company's Mining Division Office in Huntington, Utah.

It was determined by the Interdisciplinary Team that the proposed action (Alternative 2) is not consistent with the Land and Resource Management Plan of the Manti-LaSal National Forest, 1986.

Based on these findings it is my decision to approve Alternative 3 (Modified Mine Plan). Under this alternative the Forest Service will consent to approval of mine plans as modified to provide for protection of the Castlegate Sandstone outcrop from significant spalling. This alternative provides for mining under a portion of the escarpment and additional modifications of longwall mining in sequential panels as new data becomes available. This decision is consistent with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Bald Eagle Protection Act, and the Endangered Species Act, Forest Service Manual 2670, and the Land and Resource Management Plan of the Manti-LaSal National Forest, 1986.

This is not a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment; therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not needed. This determination was made based on the following: (a) there are no apparent adverse cumulative or secondary effects; (b) no known threatened or endangered species will be impacted; (c) floodplains will not be significantly affected; (d) there are no alluvial valley floors, prime or unique rangeland, timberland, farmland, known cultural or paleontological values, or wilderness that will be disturbed by this project; and (e) few public comments were received concerning this proposal. Notification of the proposal was published in the local newspaper, personal contacts were made, and a letter was sent to Forest planning contacts. Comments that were received provided no new issues or concerns.

This decision is subject to appeal under Secretary of Agriculture Regulation 36 CFR 211.18. A written notice of appeal must be filed with this office within 45 days from the date of decision.

George C. Morris  
George Morris  
Forest Supervisor  
Manti-LaSal National Forest

Date 12/18/87