

0030

mine file
C. R. U. Smith



United States Department of the Interior

3482
(U-067)

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Moab District
P.O. Box 970
Moab, Utah 84532

Mr. Lowell P. Braxton, Administrator
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

RECEIVED JUN 26 1989
JUN 28 1989

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

Dear Mr. Braxton:

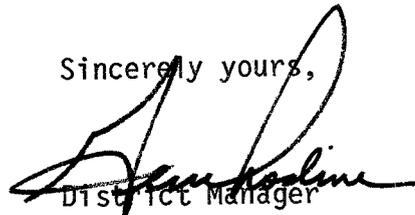
As part of the five-year permit renewal for the Wilberg/Cottonwood Mine, Utah Power and Light Company (UP&L) has submitted revised life-of-mine projections for the resource recovery and protection plan (R2P2) portion of the mining and reclamation plan (MRP).

The projection maps show large areas in the north portion of the mine (Sections 16, 17, 20 and 21, T. 17 S., R. 7 E., SLBM) for the Hiawatha Seam that are titled "unresolved geologic and hydrologic mining areas." The original R2P2 submitted was approved and forwarded to your office in 1982 by the previous lease administrators (Mining Supervisor, U. S. Geological Survey). That plan called for longwall mining through the entire area. We now understand that multi-seam mining in the approved R2P2 for this area was superseded by Special Stipulation No. 8 when the MRP for the Deer Creek Mine was approved in 1985. The stipulations call for hydrologic evaluations before any multiple seam mining is undertaken within a perennial stream buffer zone.

The BLM believes that multi-seam longwall mining can take place in this area with little hydrologic impact. Also, the existence of a perennial stream in the area is questionable. UP&L's hydrologic monitoring in other mined-out areas has shown no changes. A buffer zone will severely reduce coal recovery. The BLM believes the original R2P2 approved in 1981 for the Grimes Wash area (federal leases U-040151 and U-083066) is valid. In any case, the BLM cannot evaluate the revised R2P2 for the Wilberg/Cottonwood Mine until mining projections are submitted for the north portion of the mine.

If you have questions concerning the status of this area, please call Stephen Falk at our Price Area Office.

Sincerely yours,


District Manager

cc: SD, Utah (U-921)
AM, SRRA
UP&L Mining Division