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March 27, 1990

TO: Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, Permit Supervisor
FROM: Susan M. White, Reclamation Biologist *SMW*
RE: Approval of Notice of Intent to Explore Less Than 250 Tons, Trail Mountain, Utah Power and Light Company, Cottonwood/Wilberg Mine, CEP/015/019-90D, Folder #2, Emery County, Utah

Synopsis and Analysis

March 20, 1990, Utah Power and Light Company (UP&L) submitted a Notice of Intent to drill coal exploration drill holes on unleased Federal coal reserves to the west of the Cottonwood/Wilberg Mine permit area on Trail Mountain. All surface lands in the proposed licensed area are controlled by the U.S. Forest Service. Subsurface and mineral rights are controlled by the Bureau of Land Management. The application is for a total of six drill holes, disturbing less than five acres of land. All exploration work will be completed in 1990.

Recommendations

The submittal is not complete and should not be approved until the following concerns from UMC 776.11 "General Requirements: Exploration of Less Than 250 Tons" are addressed.

1. The applicant should state the proposed amount of coal to be taken during the exploration of six holes.
2. David Smaldone is listed as the representative of the applicant. Will he also be present on site during exploration activities?

Page 2

Memo to P. Grubaugh-Littig
CEP/015/019-90D Trail Mountain
March 27, 1990

3. The map submitted in the application is not complete. The west boundary of the proposed permit area must have topographic lines and township and range should be indicated.
4. The applicant states that short term erosion control will be to design roads to the minimum grade possible and outslope for drainage. These are inadequate as the only short term erosion control methods. The applicant should address drainage design on sloped areas.
5. The applicant states that on level sites the topsoil will remain in place during drilling activities. The applicant must strip and stockpile all topsoil or commit to using only non-compacting equipment on the pad (i.e., tracked vehicles).
6. A contingency plan should be developed for erosion control and protection of wildlife if the mud pits do not dry out during the 1990 exploration season (i.e., fencing, interim seeding).
7. The proposed seed mix lists only three species. The seed mix should be more diverse. The applicant shall specify that seeding will occur no sooner than September 1 of the given year.
8. The applicant should commit to mulching and construction of water diversion structures (i.e., water bars) on any reclaimed slopes greater than 33 percent.

djh
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