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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Manti-La Sal
National Forest

Supervisor's Office
599 West Price River Drive
Price, UT 84501
Phone # (435) 637-2817
Fax # (435) 637-4940

File Code: 2820-4

Date: July 6, 2006

Jacquin
6/10/06
task 2526

Dear Forest User:

The Manti-La Sal National Forest (FS), the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM), and Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining (DOGM) are conducting an environmental analysis to evaluate a permit change application from the Bear Canyon Mine which proposes to extend the Bear Canyon Permit Boundary to add the following Federal leases: 60 acres of lease U-024316, 2196.09 acres of lease U-61049, 1400 acres of lease U-46484, 1108.27 acres of U-61048, and 2740 acres of private property (see Attachment 1). The Federal leases are all on National Forest System lands. OSM has determined that this permit change constitutes a mining plan modification (30 CFR 746.18). OSM and the FS will be co-lead agencies in the environmental analysis.

The current proposal includes mining the Tank Seam only. Mining other coal seams would require additional environmental analysis at a future date. Because the area contains leased Federal coal, the Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Interior must approve an operation and reclamation plan. The FS must consent to the terms and conditions of the Assistant Secretary's approval where National Forest System lands are involved. The FS consent, and terms and conditions, will be documented in a decision document. OSM prepares and submits the decision document, including the FS consent letter, to the Assistant Secretary. DOGM must approve the modification under the provisions of the Utah Coal Regulatory program.

The public is invited to comment on the Manti-La Sal National Forest's proposed approval of the mine plan modification. Comments received, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project and will be available for public inspection. The FS requests comments that are relevant to environmental concerns directly connected to the proposed project.

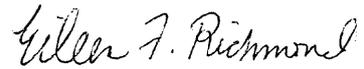
Please send written comments to Eileen F. Richmond, Acting Forest Supervisor, Manti-La Sal National Forest, 599 West Price River Drive, Price, Utah 84501; phone (435) 637-2817; e-mail: comments-intermtn-manti-lasal-ferron-price@fs.fed.us. E-mailed comments must be submitted in MS Word (*.doc) or rich text format (*.rtf). Comments may also be delivered to the above address during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, excluding federal holidays. Comments should be received on or before July 29, 2006.

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DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING



Questions concerning the proposed action should be directed to Karl Boyer or Dale Harber at (435) 637-2817.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eileen F. Richmond".

EILEEN F. RICHMOND
Acting Forest Supervisor

