

Department of
AgricultureForest
ServiceManti-La Sal
National Forest599 West Price River Dr.
Price, Utah 84501

FEB 8 1996

Reply to: 2820

Date: February 6, 1996

Utah Coal Regulatory Program
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203
Attention: Pamela Grubaugh-Littig

*Copy Harlan, Mike S,
and Pam*

RE: Installation of Culvert in Crandall Creek to Expand Surface Facilities,
Crandall Canyon Mine, Genwal Resources, Inc. ACT/015/032-961, Folder #2,
Emery County, Utah

Dear Ms. Littig:

We received a copy of the subject mine plan amendment for the Crandall Canyon Mine and are in the process of reviewing it. We hope to complete the review and submit comments by March 8, 1996.

Most of the proposed new facilities lie on Genwal Coal Company's private land within the Manti-La Sal National Forest with the exception of a portion of the sediment pond expansion. The sediment pond presently lies partially on unleased National Forest System (NFS) lands. Occupancy of the area for this facility was authorized by the Forest Service in 1983 by a Forest Service special-use permit. According to the proposal, the pond would be expanded to the south and east to accommodate the additional 4.6 acres of disturbance.

Approval of sediment pond expansion to the east and south on NFS lands will require amending the existing special-use permit by the Forest Service before the Division can approve this portion of the amendment and extend the permit area to the east accordingly. Since the proposal would require new surface disturbance on NFS lands, the Forest Service must conduct an environmental analysis as the basis for approving the special-use permit amendment and consenting to expansion of the mine permit area. The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR 1508.7) require consideration of "cumulative impacts" on the environment which result from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. This would include the current effects and effects of the total expansion as proposed in Crandall Canyon.

Current Forest Service appeal regulations (36 CFR 215) require minimum periods of time for public review of pre-decision environmental assessments and a mandatory stay in regard to project implementation during the appeal period, a minimum of 5-6 months would be required before the special-use permit could be amended.

Please inform us as to the permitting category (minor or major mine plan amendment, incidental boundary change, or permit modification) required under the Federal and State programs for review and approval of the proposal. We will need this information to initiate public scoping and identify potential cooperating agencies.

If you have any questions, need additional information, or would like to meet with us in regard to this matter, contact Carter Reed or Dale Harber at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Price, Utah.

Sincerely,

for 
JANETTE S. KAISER
Forest Supervisor

cc:
Floyd McMullen, OSM
Alan Childs, Genwal Coal Company
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