



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Manti-La Sal
National Forest

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File Code: 2820-4

Date: April 23, 1998

Mr. G. William Lamb
Bureau of Land Management
Utah State Office
P.O. Box 45155
Salt Lake City, Utah 84145-0155

Copy Mary Ann, Daron, Joe, Paul
ACT/015/032 #2

Dear Mr. Lamb:

We reviewed the lease relinquishment application submitted by Genwal Resources, Inc. to the BLM on March 24, 1998. Relinquishment of the requested areas would require a determination by the BLM, Forest Service, and UDOGM in accordance with the MOU for Processing of Requests to Relinquish Federal Coal Leases (10-MOU-97-001). The Forest Service review regarding consistency with Special Stipulations requires submittal of monitoring information and determinations by the lessee/operator on the final effects (reports) regarding subsidence, hydrology, and vegetation as required under Section 15, Special Stipulation Number 9. This information was not submitted in the application, so we are unable to begin our review for compliance with the stipulations.

Even though most of the area proposed for relinquishment was not mined (Proposed Relinquishment Map), the area contains springs, surface drainages, and vegetation that were monitored to determine the progressive and final effects of mining and could have been effected by the adjacent mining. Therefore, the final reports regarding hydrology and vegetation must cover these areas. In addition, some of the unmined areas of the application lie within the subsidence zone (determined by angle-of-draw) of adjacent mine workings and require subsidence monitoring data to demonstrate that subsidence is substantially complete. The application also shows that the upper reaches of the South Fork of Horse Creek (perennial) and a small portion of the requested relinquishment area under Blind Canyon were mined using the room-and-pillar method. Subsidence monitoring information is required to demonstrate that subsidence is consistent with expected subsidence for the mining method/conditions and is substantially complete.

We have determined in past actions that issuance of a Forest Service special-use permit to authorize continued monitoring or mitigations following relinquishment of a lease is not appropriate under applicable regulations and policy. In such cases, the lease or portions of the lease should remain in effect until it can be determined that all lease stipulation requirements have been met and relinquishment would be in the public interest.



Mr. G. William Lamb

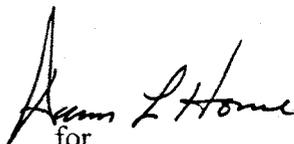
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In order to streamline the process, Genwal should submit an application to the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining for removal of the subject lands from the SMCRA Permit Area prior to or at the same time as the lease relinquishment request so both actions can be evaluated simultaneously. This would decrease the workloads of the agencies, provide better coordination between the agencies, and expedite the review process. }

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If you have any questions, contact Aaron Howe or Carter Reed at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Price, Utah.

Sincerely,



for
JANETTE S. KAISER
Forest Supervisor

cc:
D-2/3
MaryAnn Wright, UDOGM