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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Manti-LaSal
National Forest

599 West Price River Drive
Price, Utah 84501

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APR 04 1988

Reply to: 2820

Date: March 31, 1988

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

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

Dear Lowell:

We have reviewed Amended Plans for PAP Amendment, New Ventilation Portal, Quitchupah Canyon, Southern Utah Fuel Co., Convulsion Canyon Mine, ACT/041/002 - 87B, Sevier County, Utah.

The proposed facility lies on a tract of private land within the Manti-LaSal National Forest boundary. Coastal States Energy Company owns the coal and surface in this tract. Our comments are in regard to management of downstream resources on National Forest System lands.

The cross-section requested by the Forest in our January, 6, 1988, letter to your office is adequate for evaluation of the pad relative to the drainage. The cross-section and our calculations show that the facility lies outside of the 100-year floodplain. The cross-section, however, shows that the cut and fill sections might not be balanced and that it might be necessary to stockpile or waste excess material. The operator has not shown whether or not there will be excess material nor how any excess material will be handled.

Our concerns have been adequately addressed with the exception of handling of excess material if generated. These materials should not be stockpiled or wasted within the floodplain and must be protected from erosion such that the project does not result in addition of sediment downstream.

We have no objection to the proposal as long as the operator can demonstrate that cut and fills will be balanced or that excess material will be properly handled and protected from erosion.

Sincerely,



for
GEORGE A. MORRIS
Forest Supervisor