STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Oil, Gas & Mining

Norman H. Bangerter, Governor
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October 14, 1987

Mr. James Dryden
Bureau of Land Management
Price River Resource Area
900 North 700 East
P.O. BOX AB
Price, Utah 84501

Dear Mr. Dryden:

Re: SM/007/035, Carbon County, Utah; SM/015/036 and SM/015/037, Emery County, Utah

Attached are copies of three Notice of Intents for the mining of mancos shale that the Division has received recently. They are all located in the Price Resource Area. The state amended the 1975 Mined Land Reclamation Act in 1986 and 1987. One result of this law change has been the elimination of the reclamation exemption for small mine operations which mine less than 500 tons or disturb less than two surface acres per 12 month period. State law now classifies mines as five acres and under (small mines) and greater than five acres (large mines). Small mines will be required to submit a Notice of Intent to the Division but are not required to post a reclamation bond. Large mine requirements will remain much the same as before in that a detailed mine and reclamation plan and a reclamation surety will be required prior to mining.

The rules for implementing this law change are currently going through a lengthy public comment period and are not expected to approved until sometime in 1988. In the meanwhile, we are using the draft MR-SMO Form for new mine operations that will disturb five surface acres or less. Any comments or suggestions that you might have for improving this form are welcomed. It is our hope that a working agreement (or Memorandum of Understanding) can be made between the Division and the Bureau of Land Management once these new rules are implemented. This would eliminate some of the duplication of paper work and field work that currently exists.

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I do not plan on making any detailed recommendations to the three mine operators who submitted the enclosed Small Mine Notice of Intents. I presume that you have already met with them and have agreed on soil stockpiling, erosion control measures, seed mixes, etc.

I will make occasional site inspections to verify that the unreclaimed surface disturbance is less than five acres and that the sites are environmentally stable. Please let us know if any problems develop at these mines. We would be happy to provide any assistance that may be required.

Sincerely,

Frank Filas
Reclamation Engineer

clj
cc: L. Braxton
1311R/22-23