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Recd 4/1/83 RWD  
To: Tom T.

U-07746



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

CENTRAL REGION

IN REPLY  
REFER TO:

Office of the Mining Supervisor  
2040 Administration Building  
1745 West 1700 South  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84104

March 31, 1983

Dr. G. A. (Jim) Shirazi  
Utah State Division  
Oil, Gas, & Mining  
4241 State Office Building  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Dear Mr. Shirazi:

Enclosed is a copy of Sunedco Coal Company's 1983 drilling plan for the Sage Point-Dugout Canyon area. Please review the program and submit any concerns to this office.

We plan to hold an onsite investigation with officials from the company and the BLM, Price River Resource Area, when the snow clears. Stephen Falk of my staff will be handling this program. Information or questions can be directed to him or myself.

Sincerely yours,

Jackson W. Moffitt  
Mining Supervisor

Enclosure



**SUNEDCO COAL CO.**  
7401 W Mansfield Ave  
Suite 418  
Post Office Box 35B  
Lakewood CO 80235  
303 989 9280

## EXPLORATION PLAN

### SAGE POINT - DUGOUT CANYON

Sunoco Energy Development Co. (Sunedco) proposes to drill 15 exploration holes this summer at the Sage Point - Dugout Canyon Project in Carbon County, Utah. A complete description of the project can be found in the Mine and Reclamation Plan for the Sage Point - Dugout Canyon Project filed with the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOG M) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Sunedco hereby submits the following notice of intent to drill as required by the BLM under 30 CFR 211.10 (a), and by DOGM under UMC 776.11 (b).

30 CFR 211.10 (a) (3) (i) (ii) and UMC 776.11 (b) (1) (2)

Sunoco Energy Development Company  
7401 W. Mansfield Ave., Suite 418  
P.O. Box 35-B  
Lakewood, CO 80235  
James Semborski - Project Geologist  
(303) 989-9280

30 CFR 211.10 (a) (3) (iii) and UMC 776.11 (b) (1) (5)

The coal reserves to be explored are owned in part by the United States of America and leased to Sunedco (U-0144820, U-07746, and U07064-027821). The land surface is owned by Sunedco, the United States of America, George Milton Thayn and Mrs. Bernard Iriart. Mr. Thayn and Mrs. Iriart can be reached at the following addresses:

Mr. George Thayn  
c/o Postmaster  
Wellington, Utah 84542

Mrs. Bernard Iriart  
503 East 100 North  
Price, Utah 84501

The proposed exploration drill holes are illustrated on the attached map and described on Table 1.

TABLE 1  
SAGE POINT - DUGOUT CANYON  
PROPOSED DRILL HOLES

<u>DRILL HOLE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>SURFACE OWNERSHIP</u>	<u>SURFACE ELEVATION</u>	<u>TOTAL DEPTH</u>	<u>CORE FOOTAGE</u>
4-3	T13S,R12E,S4	Sun	7860	2280	150
8-4	T13S,R12E,S8	Sun	7480	1430	100
10-3	T13S,R12E,S10	Sun	7980	2375	150
10-4	T13S,R12E,S10	Sun	8220	2320	100
11-5	T13S,R12E,S11	Sun	8230	2460	150
13-3	T13S,R12E,S13	Thayn	8160	1900	100
14-6	T13S,R12E,S14	Sun	7880	1400	150
14-7	T13S,R12E,S14	Sun	8320	2100	150
15-5	T13S,R12E,S15	Sun	8480	2020	2020
17-2	T13S,R12E,S17	Sun	8050	980	100
17-3	T13S,R12E,S17	Sun	8025	950	100
17-4	T13S,R12E,S17	Sun	7600	960	100
23-1	T13S,R12E,S23	USA	7380	440	100
24-3	T13S,R12E,S24	Thayn	8020	1060	100
32-1	T13S,R12E,S32	Iriart	7140	2420	150

The environmental resources in the exploration area are described in detail in the mine and reclamation plan for the Sage Point - Dugout Canyon Project on file with the BLM and DOGM. A summary of the local environmental conditions follows:

Geology. The exploration area is in the Book Cliffs of central Utah, which are part of the Mesaverde Group. The area straddles the boundary between the Book Cliffs - Roan Plateau at the high elevations and the Mancos Shale Lowland below. The coal beds in the area lie in the Blackhawk Formation at depths ranging from tens of feet at the outcrop to over 3000 feet north of the exploration area.

Hydrology. A number of ephemeral streams flow out of the Book Cliffs into the Price River drainage. Most of them flow only in response to storms or spring runoff. Fish Creek, Dugout Canyon, and Pace Creek, shown on the attached map, are the primary streams in the area where the exploration holes will be drilled. Consolidated sediments of Cretaceous and Tertiary Age contain the most extensive groundwater aquifers in the exploration area. There are no wells in the area that serve as sources of water supply.

Vegetation. The drill holes will be located in several different plant communities, mixed conifer, Douglas fir, quaking aspen, streambank deciduous, and sagebrush. No threatened or endangered plant species inhabit the area.

Fish and Wildlife. No fish have been observed in the local streams during water monitoring activities over the past six years. Numerous mammals make use of the habitats described above, including mule deer, elk, coyote, jackrabbits, and other rodents. A variety of raptors, including hawks and owls, are found in the area as well as passerine birds common to central Utah, such as the scrub jay, American robin, and sagethrasher. Raptors are the only protected species that makes use of wildlife habitats in the general area. Drilling activities will commence after June 15 and therefore should not impact the nesting of these birds.

Land Use. The land surface presently serves as cattle range and wildlife habitat. Drilling would cause only very localized disruptions in use by cattle and wildlife; these effects would be temporary.

Archaeology. The areas to be disturbed will be cleared by a certified archaeologist prior to commencement of operation.

30 CFR 211.10 (a) (3) (iv)

The proposed exploration activities consist of drilling 15 exploration holes (Table 1) at the locations shown on the attached maps. The holes are numbered according to section number and the number of holes in each section. The holes will be used to determine coal seam thickness, methane content and core samples will be taken at each location to test coal quality, washability and geotechnical characteristics.

Although contractors have not yet been hired, Sunedco anticipates using two Portadrill 524 or TK and one Long Year 44-type drill rigs using both air and a stiff-foam mixture to stabilize hole conditions depending on the depth of the holes. Additional equipment will include water trucks, a geophysical logging unit, pick-up trucks to transport drilling crews, and a bulldozer for grading and recontouring drill sites and drill roads.

Drilling pads will be graded alongside existing roads when possible. These pads will only be prepared in areas where levelling is needed to accommodate the drill rig and water truck. A mud pit will be located near by. Water will be trucked in from the nearby streams which will not be significantly impacted by the diverted flows.

Whenever possible, existing roads will be used to reach drill sites. However, approximately five miles of temporary road will be constructed to reach most drill sites. Roads to be constructed are shown on the attached map. All existing regulations and guidelines will be followed during construction and reclamation of these drill roads. For several of the drill holes it will be necessary to clear rocks from existing roads and do some slight grading to make them passable by drilling equipment. This will also be done in such a way to minimize impact.

30 CFR 211.10 (a) (3) (v) and UMC 776.11 (b) (4)

Timetable: The drill sites will be prepared in early June so drilling can begin in mid-June. Drilling will continue through the summer, with the drilling rigs moving from site to site as holes are completed. Following completion of the drilling, each drill site and road will be recontoured so as to approximate the original slope. All drilling should be completed by early September. Seed will be broadcast on the regraded drill sites and roads in late September or early October in anticipation of winter precipitation.

30 CFR 211.10 (a) (3) (vi)

It is estimated approximately one thousand one hundred (1100) pounds of coal will be removed by the coring program. This assumes a nominal three inch core, eight foot average seam thickness and 35 seam intersections.

30 CFR 211.10 (a) (3) (vii) and UMC 776.11 (b) (6)

All necessary precautions will be taken to prevent fires including having water resources near by to extinguish fires. Fire extinguishers will be in all vehicles on the drill site along with first-aid kits. The wearing of hard hats and steel-toed boots on drill sites is mandatory by all personnel and visitors to the locations. Soil erosion and pollution of any stream courses will be minimized by not discharging any water into the streams and by recontouring and revegetating the sites following drilling. Impacts to vegetation and wildlife will be very limited. Vegetation removal will be confined to the drilling pads or the areas where temporary road construction will be necessary to provide access. Animals will avoid the drilling sites, and the disturbance will cover only small areas and will be of short duration. Following drilling, any displaced wildlife should

quickly return to the sites as reclamation measures are implemented. The drilling will take place on private lands closed to the public so no hazards to public health and safety are expected. The operations will comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

Following completion of drilling, coring, and logging of the drill holes, each hole will be plugged with cement according to prescribed methods.

Reclamation will occur following plugging of the drill holes. Garbage and trash will be collected and removed. Soil will be graded and recontoured using a bulldozer; limited soil compaction for improved plant growth will result from operation of the bulldozer and other equipment. Because precipitation is plentiful at the drill sites, no other soil preparation is necessary for the rapid establishment of new vegetation. Disturbed areas will be broadcast seeded with approved seed mix.

30 CFR 211.10 (a) (3) (viii) and UMC 776.11 (b) (3)

The attached map illustrates the location of each proposed drill site.

30 CFR 211.10 (a) (3) (ix) and UMC 776.11 (b) (5)

Since Sunedco does not own the fee surface in all areas of exploration, Sunedco has obtained consent from the surface owners, George Milton Thayn and Mrs. Bernard Iriart, to enter and conduct exploration and reclamation activities. The consent agreement provides that Sunedco may enter and conduct any coal mining operations, including exploration, on Mr. Thayn's and Mrs. Iriart's fee surface. The surface owners will be notified before drilling begins. The attached maps show all proposed drill hole locations, surface ownership and any existing roads to be used for access or any proposed roads that will be necessary to gain access to locations.