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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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355 West North Temple

3 Triad Center, Suite 350

Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

801-538-5340

December 5, 1988

Mr. Vernal J. Mortensen
Senior Vice President
Coastal States Energy Company
175 East 400 South, Suite 800
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Dear Mr. Mortensen:

Re: Forest Service Comments, Permit Renewal, Utah Fuel Company,
Skyline Mine, ACT/007/005, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

Attached are the comments received from the U.S. Forest Service, Manti-LaSal National Forest, regarding the November 1, 1988 permit renewal submittal for the Skyline Mine.

Please address any concerns that have not been incorporated into your December 1, 1988 submittal, with your January 3, 1989 response to the Division's letter of November 30, 1988.

As always, feel free to contact me or Susan Linner if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lowell P. Braxton".

Lowell P. Braxton

Administrator

Mineral Resource Development
and Reclamation Program

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Attachment

cc: G. Zumwalt

G. Morris

R. Harden

S. Linner

BT45/125

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Manti-LaSal
National Forest

599 West Price River Dr.
Price, Utah 84501

Reply to: 2820

Date: November 28, 1988

RECEIVED
NOV 30 1988

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

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

RE: Permit Renewal Submittal, Utah Fuel Company, Skyline Mine, ACT/007/005,
Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah, 10/15/88 Submittal.

Dear Lowell:

We have reviewed Utah Fuel Company's (UFCo.) May 25, 1988, response to identified concerns and the accompanying October 15, 1988 (10/15/88), submittal. All of the Forest Service concerns identified in the Forest Service letter to the Division dated May 9, 1988, have been adequately addressed. The remaining Forest Service concerns documented in our February 10, 1988, letter to the Division still need to be addressed.

In addition, we have the following comments² on the 10/15/88 submittal:

1. Page 2-23A, Figure 2.3.2-1

In this figure, which shows the results of the spring survey in South Fork of Eccles Creek, the longwall panels are shown to extend southeasterly under the drainage. It is our understanding that the panels are to be shortened so that mining under the South Fork drainage will not occur. This figure does not show that this is the case. In addition, it is not possible to confirm this either way from Maps 3.3-1 or 3.3-2. Since the South Fork of Eccles Creek is perennial, it must be protected from subsidence. All drawings which show the workings should be consistent and show that the panels will not extend under the drainage.

2. South Fork Breakout Discussion in all Sections and Map 3.2.11-1

The discussions and map are not consistent with the as-built conditions. Several changes were agreed to on-the-ground during construction, resulting in the need to revise this material and make several additions. It is our understanding that the Division has already contacted UFCo. and requested as-built information. We have identified needed additions and revisions. For further information, please contact the Manti-LaSal National Forest.

3. Portal Area Sediment Pond

As stated in the Forest Service comments, the sediment pond must be backfilled and reclaimed after final reclamation of the portal area is determined to be successful. UFCo. has made revisions on pages 3-40 and 4-3 to be consistent with this requirement. An additional revision needs to be made on page 4-18. In the first paragraph it is stated that the sediment pond will not be backfilled and will be allowed to fill in naturally, thus creating riparian habitat to enhance wildlife.

4. Page 3-39, Paragraph 4

The MRP has been changed in the 10/15/88 revision which would allow for the culverts in Eccles Creek to remain in place after reclamation. The original approved plan stated that the culvert would be removed (Page 4-66). We do not concur with this change which would allow the culvert to be left in place.

5. Page 4-84, Last Paragraph (Editorial Comment)

It is stated that the road across the tributary to South Fork is a fishery. We assume that this is an error and that it was intended to state that the stream is a fishery.

If you have any questions, please contact the Forest Supervisor's Office in Price, Utah.

Sincerely,



for
GEORGE A. MORRIS
Forest Supervisor