

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Manti-La Sal
National Forest

207/005 #2
599 West Price River Dr.
Price, Utah 84501

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RECEIVED
DEC 20 1990

Reply to: 2820

Date: December 18, 1990

LOWELL BRAXTON
DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING
Lowell Braxton
State of Utah Natural Resources
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

RE: Coal Stacking Tube Amendment, Utah Fuel Company, Skyline Mine,
ACT/007/005-90A, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

Dear Lowell:

We reviewed the subject amendment which proposes to eliminate the shot-crete barrier on the canyon slopes which contain the open coal stockpile. The proposed alternative to shot-crete is to retain a perpetual buffer layer of coal on the slopes and to train heavy equipment operators to not disturb this buffer layer while working the coal pile.

Based on our experience, the proposed alternative will not be effective over the life of the stockpile. Over several years the coal buffer layer will slough and continuously erode the slope. In addition, there will be mistakes resulting in slow but continuous removal of the natural slope material beneath the coal buffer. Considering the above, we feel that a physical barrier must be provided to protect the slopes. Any reasonable proposals will be considered.

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

Sincerely,



for
GEORGE A. MORRIS
Forest Supervisor