State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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TO: File

FROM: David Darby, Geologist

RE: Amendment, Mining Beneath the Huntington Creek Buffer Zone, Skyline Mine, ACT/007/005-90F, Utah Fuel Company, Carbon County, Utah, Folder #2

Synopsis

On August 13, 1990 the Utah Fuel Company submitted an amendment to their Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP) which proposed development of entries beneath the established buffer zone adjacent to Huntington Creek. Utah Fuel also provided a geotechnical study by Kenneth C. Ko and Associates (submitted June 15, 1990) to establish that no surface impacts would result from the development of a five-entry (or three-entry) mains system in the Lower O'Conner A Seam, No. 3 Mine.

Analysis

Emplacement of the entries will begin an area under Huntington Creek where overburden thickness is about 1150 feet above the coal seam. Entry support will be provided by 75 ft. pillars (on 95 ft. centers). No secondary extraction methods are planned for these areas. Information presented by the Kenneth C. Ko report identifies that mining of the No. 3 seam in the area proposed will result in no subsidence.

Prior to approval the applicant was asked to submit maps showing the changes in alignment of the natural gas pipeline operated by Questar. This information was received by the Division on September 28, 1990 (submitted September 26, 1990). It is determined from a review of the material submitted that emplacement of the five-entry system (West Mains) beneath Huntington Creek as shown in the Kenneth C Ko Report, Figure 2 and the panel access entries shown in Figure 1 of the October 18, 1990 submittal is feasible with minimal effects to surface resources and structures.

In the August 7, 1990 request the operator asked to be allowed to construct all entries under perennial stream buffer zones using pillars no smaller than 75 ft. by 75 ft. (95 by 95 ft. centers). Before giving approval to this matter the Division needs more information of entry and pillar location for each coal seam. Until this information is submitted on the extent of entry development beneath perennial stream channels the Division reserves the right to review all developmental proposals within the stream buffer zones.

The operator should ensure that secondary mining adjacent to the stream buffer zones occurs within the limits of the angle of draw for the above requests.

The operator should resubmit an updated mine map (Map 3.3-2) for the Lower O'Conner Seam, No. 3 mine which coincides with the panel layout for Figure 1 of the September 26, 1990 submittal.

Recommendations

Mining within the Huntington Creek stream buffer zone for the West Mains and part of the access entries for the long wall section described in the Amendment of September 26, 1990 is recommended for approval.

dwd

cc. B-team