

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Manti-La Sal  
National Forest

599 West Price River Dr.  
Price, Utah 84501

007/005 #2

Mine file  
Doran Haddock

Reply to: 2820

0064

Date: October 10, 1991

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: Amendment, Flume Installation, Utah Fuel Company, Skyline Mine,  
ACT/007/005-91B, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

Dear Lowell:

On October 10, 1991, we received the subject amendment which has already been approved by the Division (August 15, 1991). The amendment, as written, does not accurately reflect the intent of the flume study. In addition, full extraction mining under Upper Huntington Creek and Burnout Creek has not been approved by the Division or consented to by the Forest Service (Letter from the Division to Utah Fuel Company, dated September 11, 1991).

The amendment on page 4-82 assumes that full extraction mining has been approved or will be approved under Burnout Creek and Upper Huntington Creek and that the amendment is intended to study the effects of such mining. It states: "A special three year subsidence monitoring program will be conducted to study the general effects of subsidence related to full extraction coal mining on stream flows in the upper reaches of Upper Huntington Creek and Burnout Creek drainages". The amendment further states: "The results of this special monitoring program will be used to project future mining areas beneath small perennial and perennial streams and to determine the effects, if any, of full extraction mining on perennial streams in this area". Map 2.3.6-1 identifies subsidence points in the stream channels to be monitored.

The purpose of the flumes is to monitor the flow in Burnout Creek and determine if it is a perennial drainage. This information, once collected will be used to determine if the Division would approve and the Forest Service would consent to mining under this drainage. In our meetings on this subject, it was decided that Utah Fuel Company would submit a plan for studying the flow of Burnout Creek for this purpose. We have not, to date, received such a study plan.

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DIVISION OF  
OIL GAS & MINING

In our meetings with Dave Darby of the Division, it was agreed that the flume locations could be approved but that it must be made clear in the approval correspondence that approval of flume installation in no way constitutes approval of mining under perennial drainages.

The Forest Service will not consent to the amendment until it is revised to address the concerns discussed above.

If you have any questions, contact Aaron Howe, or Carter Reed at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Price, Utah.

Sincerely,



for

GEORGE A. MORRIS  
Forest Supervisor

cc:  
Glen Zumwalt, Manager  
Utah Fuel Company  
P.O. Box 719  
Helper, Utah 84526