



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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Norman H. Bangerter
Governor

Dee C. Hansen
Executive Director

Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D.
Division Director

355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203
801-538-5340

TO: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Paul Baker, Reclamation Biologist

DATE: June 17, 1991

RE: Woods Canyon Minor Exploration, Coastal States Energy Company, Skyline Coal Company, ACT/007/005, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah.

SUMMARY

Coastal States Energy Company, Skyline Coal Company, has submitted an application for a minor exploration permit to conduct exploration in the Woods Canyon area of extreme ^{western} eastern Carbon County. They propose to use existing jeep trails as much as possible and to construct about 1-3/8 miles of additional roads which would be reclaimed. Three drill pads would also be constructed and reclaimed.

The surface manager of this land is the U. S. Forest Service, and the coal is managed by the Bureau of Land Management. The requested permit area is about 1.5 miles north of the existing Skyline permit area.

ANALYSIS

R614-202-231. THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

No statement is made about the presence or absence of threatened or endangered species and habitats of unusually high value. The mining and reclamation plan states that when the survey for threatened or endangered species was performed, none were encountered in either the lease area or in the surrounding areas. Skyline should show that the area proposed to be explored was surveyed for threatened and endangered species and for habitats of unusually high value.

R614-202-242. REVEGETATION

The applicant presents a planned seed mixture of seven grass and five forb species and states that the U. S. Forest Service will be consulted to ensure proper seeding mixture. Several of the species in the proposed mixture are introduced, but these species are adapted to the sites and should be adequate to control erosion. The seed mix contains no shrub or tree species; however, the areas proposed to be disturbed are small and not far from seed sources for reinvasion of the native species. Smooth brome is a very dominant species which might be partially replaced in this mixture by Kentucky bluegrass, a native rhizomatous species (1 lb. PLS/acre smooth brome, 1/2 lb. PLS/acre Kentucky bluegrass).

No seeding or mulching methods are shown. The sites are necessarily level enough for equipment needed to seed and mulch. Best results would be obtained by drilling the seed then mulching it with straw, hay, or hydromulch. The mulch should be anchored to the ground either with a tackifier or by crimping. If, because of weather conditions, it was impossible to drill the seed, the areas should be hydroseeded. Seeding operations could take place even after light snowfall and should not be delayed until spring if at all possible.

The seeding rates shown are adequate for broadcast seed. The amount of seed planted could be reduced by one-fourth to one-half for drilled seed.