



Original: Mine File #3  
Wayne W Act/007/005  
Jim S.

# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

0036

Moab District  
P. O. Box 970  
Moab, Utah 84532

3482  
U-0147570  
U-0142235  
(U-065c)

APR 22 1992

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED  
Certification No. P 872 631 182

Mr. Glen A. Zumwalt  
Vice President / General Manager  
Utah Fuel Company - Skyline  
P. O. Box 719  
Helper, Utah 84526

RECEIVED

APR 24 1992

DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING

RE: Skyline Mine No. 3 Resource Recovery and Protection Plan  
(R2P2) Modification - Changes in Recoverable Reserves and  
Shortening of the 6th Right Longwall Panel

Dear Mr. Zumwalt:

On December 12, 1991, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received Utah Fuel Company's (UFC) request to modify the approved R2P2 for the Skyline Mine No. 3. On February 19, 1992, UFC submitted additional information concerning the modification request. This information was requested by Abe Elias, BLM mining engineer. The reserves are located in the Lower O'Conner A Seam on Federal coal leases U-0147570 and U-0142235.

The proposed request involves two separate modifications. The first is to revise the recoverable coal reserve estimate for longwall panels 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th Right. The second is to shorten the mining length of the 6th Right longwall panel.

## Modification No. 1:

The original recoverable reserve estimate for the Skyline Mine No. 3 was based on a maximum mining height of 13 feet. UFC is requesting to change this estimate to a maximum mining height of 15 feet for longwall panels 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th Right as conditions allow (please see enclosure 1). This change is requested because UFC has recently purchased new longwall mining equipment.

On September 27, 1991, Abe Elias inspected the Skyline Mine No. 3. During his inspection, he noted the new longwall mining equipment. UFC has installed new Kloeckner shields and a Joy 6LS shearer capable of mining coal to a maximum height of 15 feet.

As a result of the new mining height, UFC has recalculated the recoverable reserves. A. Elias performed independent calculations to verify these estimates. The results are listed in a chart below.

**Skylines' V.S. BLM  
Recoverable Reserves Estimate**

STATUS	REPORTED BY SKYLINE (TONS)	CALCULATED BY BLM (TONS)	DIFFERENCE %
New estimate	14,423,260	13,411,102	7.0
Old estimate	12,971,290	11,829,890	8.8
Changes	1,451,970	1,581,212	8.2

The above calculations indicate that UFC is estimating the recoverable reserves 8.2 percent lower than the BLM estimates. These differences are reasonable. As a result of this modification, the recoverable reserves for Federal coal leases U-0147570 and U-0142235 will increase by 1.45 million tons.

**Modification No. 2:**

UFC's approved mining plan was to develop the 6th Right headgate entries to the bleeder entries and install the 6th Right longwall panel at #73 crosscut (please see enclosure #2). They are requesting a change in this plan. The longwall set-up entry will now be at #67 crosscut and the block of coal between #67 and #73 crosscuts (herein referred to as perimeter entries) will be first mined only.

According to UFC, a recent geologic study of the rock splits in the northwest corner of Federal coal lease U-0147570 indicates that the coal thickness is below the minimum thickness requirements to mine with the new longwall equipment. The perimeter entries will be developed to use as a long-term sump and for ventilation purposes.

During an inspection on December 16, 1991, A. Elias verified that the newly installed longwall equipment's minimum mining height is 7 feet. In the 7th Right Headgate section, rock splits were observed in all three entries in the section. In the 6th Right Headgate section, the same rock split was observed. The entries were dipping down in a northwest direction at about a 6 percent slope (visual observation). Additionally, a fault zone was observed in the 6th Right Headgate section. The zone was approximately 250 feet wide.

A file search was conducted at the Price Coal Office by A. Elias. UFC has conducted a Very Low Frequency geophysical analysis of the subject area. From this analysis, rock splits were indicated in a northeast direction and the fault zone trends approximated N60W. This geophysical analysis verified that the coal thickness isopachs between #68 and #73 crosscuts of the 7th Right headgate entries are less than 7 feet.

In summary, due to reduction in the seam thickness, the new longwall equipment cannot be used to mine the perimeter entries. Rock splits, fractures and faults have also been noted in this area. The area will be developed with a continuous miner and used as a sump, since the 6th Right Headgate entries are dipping downslope. Since the area is at a depth of 2300 feet, pillaring is not feasible due to the safety issues. Shortening the 6th Right longwall panel to accommodate the new mining equipment will reduce the estimated recoverable reserves for the Federal coal lease U-0147570 by the amount of 80,000 tons.

The BLM has determined that the mine plan changes are in compliance with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, the regulations at 43 CFR 3480, the lease terms and stipulations, and will achieve maximum economic recovery of the Federal coal. As a result of these modifications the recoverable coal reserves for Skyline Mine No. 3 will increase by 1.37 million tons. Therefore, the BLM will allow the mine plan changes. The copies of the approved mine maps are enclosed.

If you have any questions, please contact Gary Johnson, Chief, Price Coal Office at (801)637-4584.

Sincerely yours,



for Assistant District Manager  
Mineral Resources

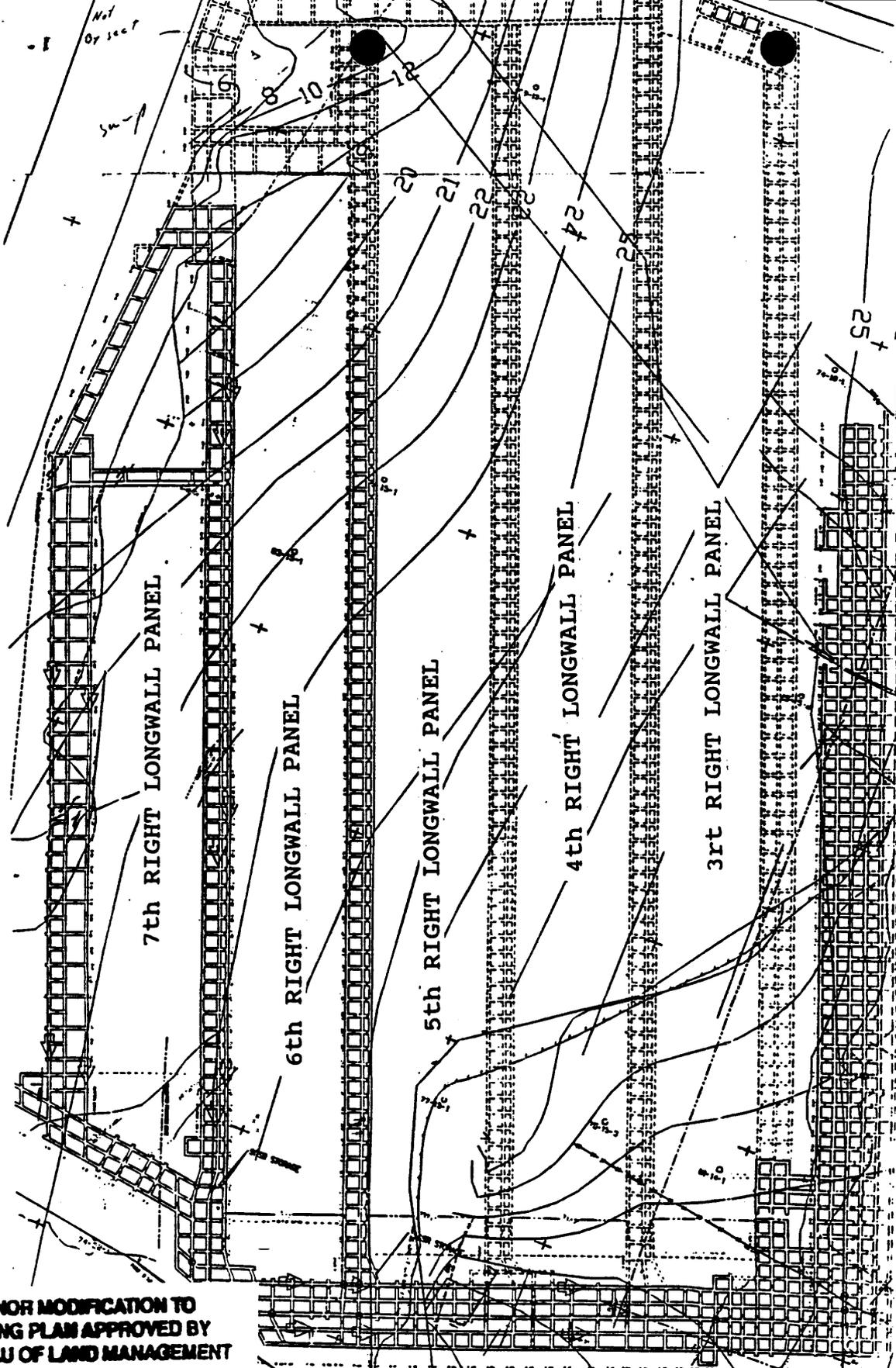
Enclosures (2)  
1-Skyline Mine No. 3, Projection Map  
2-Approved 6th Right Projection

cc:

DM, Moab (U-065) (w/encl.)

SD, Utah (U-921) (w/encl.)

\ UDOGM, Salt Lake City, (w/encl.)

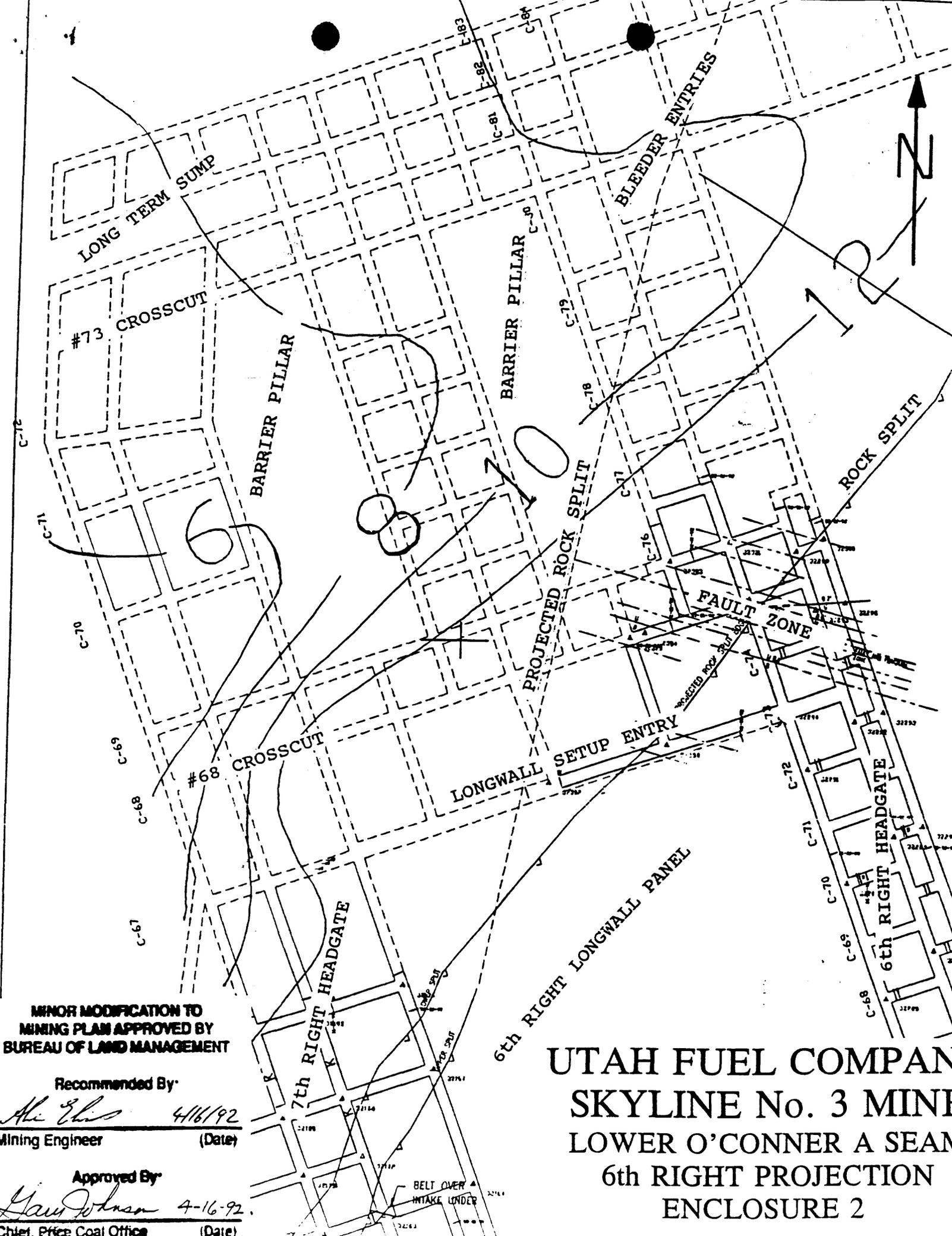


MINOR MODIFICATION TO  
 MINING PLAN APPROVED BY  
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Recommended By  
*Alc Ellis* 4-16-92  
 Mining Engineer (Date)

Approved By  
*Gary Johnson* 4-16-92  
 Chief, Price Coal Office (Date)

UTAH FUEL COMPANY  
 SKYLINE No. 3 MINE  
 LOWER O'CONNER A SEAM  
 PROJECTION MAP  
 ENCLOSURE 1



MINOR MODIFICATION TO  
MINING PLAN APPROVED BY  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Recommended By:

*Ali Ellis* 4/16/92  
Mining Engineer (Date)

Approved By:

*Gary Johnson* 4-16-92  
Chief, Office Coal Office (Date)

UTAH FUEL COMPANY  
SKYLINE No. 3 MINE  
LOWER O'CONNER A SEAM  
6th RIGHT PROJECTION  
ENCLOSURE 2