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ACT/007/005
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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Moab District

P. O. Box 970

Moab, Utah 84532

0070

3482
U-044076
(U-065c) AE

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
Certification No. P 757 770 011

RECEIVED

JUL 13 1992

DIVISION OF
OIL GAS & MINING

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

RE: Skyline Mine No. 1 Resource Recovery and Protection Plan
(R2P2) Modification - Shortening of the 6Left-A Longwall
Panel

Dear Mr. Zumwalt:

On June 19, 1992, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received Utah Fuel Company's (UFC's) request to modify the approved R2P2 for the Skyline Mine No. 1. The reserves are located in the Upper O'Conner Seam on Federal coal lease U-044076.

UFC's approved mining plan was to develop longwall set-up entries at crosscuts #87 and #88 of the 6th Left Tailgate. The company is requesting to move the longwall set-up rooms to crosscuts #80 and #81 and the block of coal between crosscuts #81 and #87 would not be recovered.

According to UFC, an unexpected fault, with a 12+ foot displacement trending in a north-south direction, was encountered toward the end of April 1992 while mining the set-up rooms at crosscuts #87 and #88. The fault is projected through a large portion of the panel, but the displacement diminishes towards the north based on Radio Imagery (RIM) surveys conducted by company personnel. UFC contends that longwall mining is not feasible across the panel where the fault displacement is 12 feet, but will attempt longwall mining where the displacement is about 8 feet. Also, development of the new set-up rooms for the longwall will preclude development of the remaining reserves with a continuous miner between crosscuts #81 and #87.

On May 20 and June 22, 1992, the Skyline Mines were inspected by Abe Elias and Steve Falk, BLM mining engineers. The fault was easily identified in both of the set-up rooms of the 6Left panel. The displacement and projection of the fault was confirmed by in-mine measurements and analyzing RIM survey results with company representatives. Additionally, a rock split and sandstone channel were observed in the 6Left gate entries as delineated on the mine map submitted by UFC.

UFC has successfully defined the extent and offset of the fault inside the 6Left panel. We agree that it is not feasible for longwall equipment to cross the fault where the displacement is approaching 12 feet and we applaud UFC for attempting longwall mining where a fault displacement of 8 feet is still expected. Our assessment is that the fault was encountered unexpectedly and all possible planning efforts were undertaken to maximize recovery. The remaining reserves between crosscuts #81 and #87 are marginally recoverable with a continuous miner because of the fault and the projections of the rock split and sandstone channel through this area which would further contribute to adverse mining conditions. Mining this uncertain coal reserve with a continuous miner would incur an unreasonable delay of UFC's ambitious attempt at longwall mining.

The BLM has determined that the proposed mine plan change is 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. Therefore, the modification is approved as proposed and a copy of the approved mine map is enclosed. An estimated 183,000 tons of coal will be eliminated from the recoverable reserve base for the Skyline logical mining unit and Federal coal lease U-044076.

In the interest of conservation of a resource, we will always require detailed justification for not recovering minable coal reserves remaining in a shortened longwall panel with a continuous miner. For this reason, UFC is encouraged to develop a strategy for eliminating any future losses of coal resources based solely on timing constraints.

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

Sincerely,



for Assistant District Manager
Mineral Resources

Enclosure:
Approved 6Left-A Panel

cc:
DM, Moab (U-065) (w/encl.)
SD, Utah (U-921) (w/encl.)
~ UDOGM, Salt Lake City, (w/encl.)