



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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

3480
U-044076
U-0147570
(U-065c)

0127

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
Certification No. P 696 295 589

DEC 11 1992

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

RECEIVED

DEC 14 1992

DIVISION OF
OIL GAS & MINING

RE: Utah Fuel Company (UFC), Skyline Mine No. 1 - Dike in the 7 Left "B" Longwall Panel

Dear Mr. Zumwalt:

On August 4, 1992 the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received a telephone request from UFC to modify the approved resource recovery and protection plan (R2P2) for the Skyline Mine No. 1. Price Coal Office personnel inspected the mine, evaluated the situation, and then granted a verbal approval to UFC for a minor modification to the approved mine plan on August 5, 1992. A formal follow-up letter with information concerning the minor modification was submitted on August 18, 1992. UFC also submitted additional information regarding this mine plan change on November 20, 1992. The affected coal reserves are in the Upper O'Connor Seam on Federal coal leases U-044076 and U-0147570.

The approved mining plan was to develop the 7th Right headgate entries and setup rooms to begin mining the 7 Left "B" longwall panel at #38 crosscut and conclude mining this panel at #5 crosscut. UFC is now proposing to stop mining the 7 Left "B" longwall panel at #26 crosscut (planned recovery room) and develop new setup rooms at #19 and #20 crosscuts (planned setup room) to mine the new 7 Left "C" longwall panel (see enclosure). UFC also proposes no mining in the block of coal between #20 and #26 crosscuts except for developing approximately 100 feet of muck rooms at #21 and #22 crosscuts.

According to UFC, an unexpected occurrence of an igneous dike zone was encountered between #20 and #25 crosscuts while developing the 7th Left headgate entries. Horizontal drilling and a Radio Imagery Method (RIM) survey conducted by company personnel delineated the dike's configuration (see enclosure). The dike body is composed of a very hard material surrounded by a weak roof and rib section.

An igneous dike trending east-west between #20 and #24 crosscuts of the 7th Left headgate entries was observed during the mine inspection conducted August 5, 1992. A branch of the dike 55 feet wide was measured between #20 and #21 crosscuts. Four small fingers, each ranging from one foot to four feet wide emerged in the coal between #21 and #23 crosscuts. The 7 Left headgate entries were intersected by another branch of the dike between #23 and #24 crosscuts. Drilling and shooting techniques were used in this area because the dike material is very hard and is difficult to mine using continuous miners. Solid steel mats and

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File #2

a combination of seven and ten foot roof bolts were used to control the fractured roof and the weak rib in this part of the mine. A previous inspection (9/27/91) documented that a dike zone with the same characteristics was encountered while developing the 6th Left headgate entries at #28 crosscut and was measured six inches wide. The horizontal drilling and RIM survey data was analyzed and does confirm the dike's configuration as reported by UFC.

Based on this information, the BLM concludes that it is not feasible for longwall mining equipment to cross the dike and therefore, the coal reserves between #20 and #26 crosscuts are not recoverable utilizing longwall mining equipment. However, there is potential for recovering a portion of the reserves in this block which are unaffected by the igneous dike utilizing a continuous miner.

Therefore, the BLM has authorized UFC to develop the muck rooms at #21 and #22 crosscuts, stop mining the 7 Left "B" longwall panel at #26 crosscut, and develop new setup rooms at #19 and #20 crosscuts to mine the 7 Left "C" longwall panel. This confirms the verbal approval given to UFC on August 5, 1992. We estimate that approximately 25,000 tons of additional coal between #20 and #26 crosscuts could be recovered by first mining methods. Before extraction of the 7 Left "C" longwall panel begins, UFC must submit for BLM approval either mining plans for obtaining additional recovery for the reserves in question or appropriate justification explaining why additional recovery is not possible.

The BLM has determined that the proposed minor modification, as conditioned, 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. A copy of the approved mine map is enclosed.

If you have any questions, please contact Abe Elias in the Price Coal Office at 801/637-4584.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Rosman (Acting)

Asst. Assistant District Manager
Mineral Resources

Enclosure:

Approved Mine Map (1p)

cc: DM, Moab (U-065) (w/enclosure)
SD, Utah (U-921) (w/enclosure)
✓UDOGM, Salt Lake City (w/enclosure)

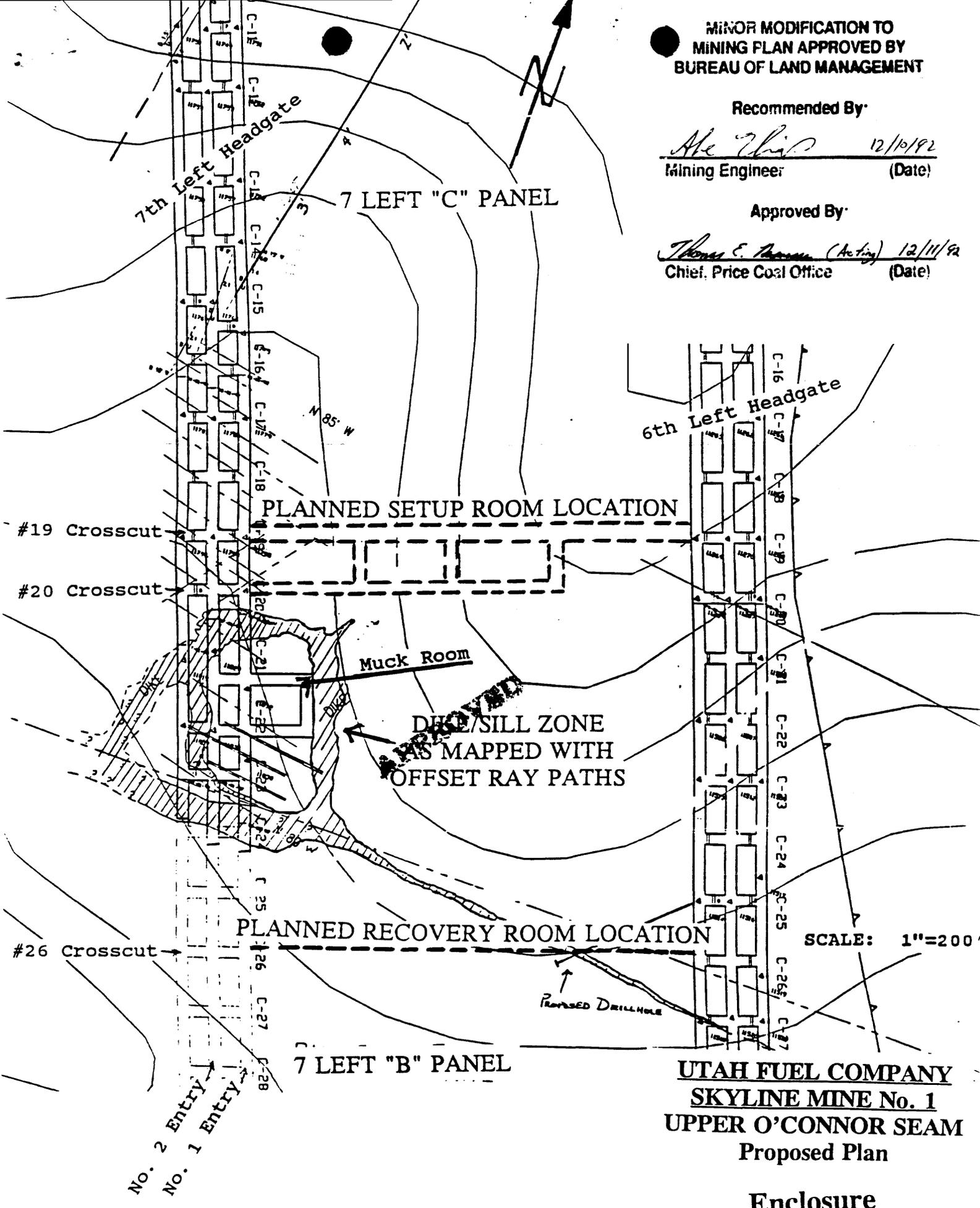
MINOR MODIFICATION TO
MINING PLAN APPROVED BY
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Recommended By:

Alc. Chip 12/10/92
Mining Engineer (Date)

Approved By:

Thomas E. Thomas (Acting) 12/11/92
Chief, Price Coal Office (Date)



**UTAH FUEL COMPANY
SKYLINE MINE No. 1
UPPER O'CONNOR SEAM
Proposed Plan**

Enclosure