



STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Water Rights

Southeastern Area • 453 S. Carbon Avenue • P.O. Box 718 • Price, UT 84501-0718 • 801-637-1303

0017

March 5, 1992

Original Mine File
cc: B-Team
ACI/007/005
RECEIVED

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**DIVISION OF
OIL GAS & MINING**

Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
Attn: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor
355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

Re: Permit Renewal Application
Utah Fuel Company Skyline Mine

Dear Daron:

The renewal application for the Skyline Mine has been reviewed. The comments, which are enumerated below, address requirements of this office, as well as the possible interference or diminution of flows within and adjacent to the permit area.

1. Section 2.3.5.2, page 2-31, states that only one spring on the base area has a filed water right. However, upon review of office files, 11 additional water rights on spring sources were identified. All filings are in the name of the U.S. Forest Service.

2. Three exchanges (E1114, E1560, E1906) were filed by Coastal States Energy Company to divert water from underground wells or mine tunnels and are shown on map 2.3.5.2-1. Of these applications, only E1114 and E1906 are valid; E1906 was filed to replace E1560. As stated on page 2-51, only 148 acre feet of water is available under the currently approved exchanges.

3. Section 2.5.2, page 2-49, and page 25 of the PHC discuss possible effects of mining induced subsidence upon the area water resources. Due to the presence of shales and their swelling nature, impacts related to subsidence are expected to be minimal. Further, sealing of potential cracks under stream bodies is expected to be accelerated due to natural deposition of silt. It should be noted that any loss or diminution of flow from any source should be considered significant. In the event that mitigation is required, changes or developments of water sources should be coordinated with this office.

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4. Pages 9 through 15 of the PHC address the transbasin diversion of water from the San Rafael basin (Huntington Creek) to the Price basin (Eccles Creek). According to the figures presented, approximately 95 gpm of the total 380 gpm is depleted from the San Rafael basin and currently discharged from the mines. Projected maximum mine-water discharge is estimated at 550 gpm, of which 68% (374 gpm) would originate within the San Rafael basin. Although this figure may decrease over time, it appears that sources within the Huntington Creek drainage may reflect the depletion. Compensation may be required for the transbasin diversion.

5. Section 3.2.1, pages 3-15 through 3-23, identifies three sedimentation ponds within the mine property. The mine site and coal loadout ponds have been approved pursuant to the requirements set forth by Section 73-5a-204 of the Utah Code. However, Form R-69, Application to Construct a Dam Impounding Less Than 20 Acre Feet, has not been completed for the rock disposal sediment pond. Therefore, the form should be completed and submitted to this office for approval.

6. Section 4.7.4, page 4-46, discusses revegetation and possible supplemental irrigation. Further, page 4-83 indicates that upon cleanout, water from the loadout sedimentation pond not meeting discharge requirements may be utilized to water vegetation. As referenced in item #3, 148 acre feet of water has been exchanged by Coastal States, however, uses are indicated as being incidental to mining operations (mining, drinking, sanitary, etc.). Should supplemental irrigation be required, it will be necessary to file additional paper work with this office to accommodate any irrigation uses. Developments regarding these uses should be coordinated with this office.

I appreciate the opportunity to review Utah Fuel's mine plans. Should you have any questions regarding the foregoing comments, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

William A. Warmack

William A. Warmack
Assistant Regional Engineer

cc: Utah Fuel Company
Attn: Keith Zobel, Environmental Engineer
P.O. Box 719
Helper, Utah 84526

Enclosure
WAW/mjk