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State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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January 24, 1995

TO: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Steven M. Johnson, Reclamation Hydrologist

RE: Draft Review, Midterm Review, Skyline Mine, Utah Fuel Company, ACT/007/005, Working File, Carbon County, Utah. *Folder #2*

SYNOPSIS

The variance from the 100-foot stream buffer zones has been reviewed as part of the Skyline mine midterm review. The review resulted in the technical analysis found below.

ANALYSIS

HYDROLOGIC RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-731.600

Analysis:

Stream Buffer Zones

Stream diversions are listed in section 4.19 of the MRP. One diversion flows under the mine site at the confluence of three tributaries to Eccles Creek. About 600 feet of Eccles Creek was relocated in the area of the coal load out facility. The diversion under the main portal area pad and around the load out facilities are within the 100-foot stream buffer zone. Areas of operation within the 100-foot stream buffer zone are listed in section 3.2.7. Stream Buffer zone signs have been placed at the portal area on the southwest and middle forks of upper Eccles Creek, at the pump houses along Eccles Creek, at the load out facility near Eccles and Pleasant Valley Creeks, and at the South Fork breakout area. Buffer zones signs are placed along the overland conveyor and Eccles Creek.



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The MRP cross reference points the reader to sections 2.3.7 and 2.4.4 for information on rule R645-301-731.611. These sections are the ground water monitoring and surface water monitoring plans, respectively.

Findings:

The MRP successfully addresses the Utah coal rule R645-301-731.612 and R645-301-731.620; however, insufficient data was provided to make a conclusion about the protection of water quality. R645-301-731.611 says that the Division must find that activities within the stream buffer zone do not cause or contribute to the violation of applicable water quality standards and will not adversely affect the water quantity or quality. The information needed to make this determination is not clearly outlined in the MRP and the references to the monitoring plans are not specific enough to make the proper judgements.

RECOMMENDATION

Utah Fuel must submit information that clarifies the measures taken that will prevent the encroachments to the stream buffer zones from causing degradation of water quality. After this information has been submitted, the Division can decide if these activities comply with R645-301-731-611. Currently, the MRP gives information about the surface and ground water monitoring plans, but this information is not specific to the activities in the stream buffer zones. This information is needed to be consistent with the Utah Coal Rules and demands that the Division has made on other operators in the state regarding permitting of activities within the stream buffer zone.

blb

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