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United States
Department of
Agriculture

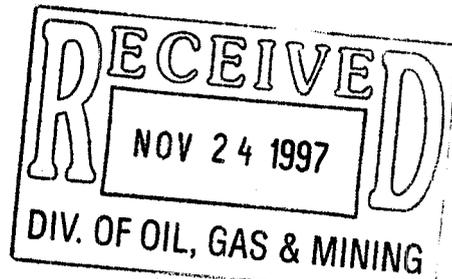
Forest Service
Manti-La Sal
National Forest

599 West Price River Dr.
Price, Utah 84501
Phone # (435) 637-2817
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File Code: 2820-4

Date: November 20, 1997

Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
ATTN: Mike Suflita
1594 West North Temple
Suite 1210
Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801



RE: Slurry System Permit Amendment

(Amendment file #97K)

Dear Mike:

*ACT/007/005 #2
Copy Mary Ann, Mike,
Aaron*

We have reviewed Canyon Fuel Company's updated slurry system amendment for their Skyline Mine and are unable to consent to the proposal due to potential contamination of the sediment pond from unanticipated surface spills. We can not consent to any proposal that could result in ground water contamination.

We suggest Canyon Fuel Company consider feeding the slurry system by redirecting mine water before it reaches the sediment pond. The slurry would comprise only mine water (which has been through the in-mine oil skimmer) and waste rock from within the mine, thereby eliminating any contamination from the surface.

The description of the ground water system provided in their latest amendment is adequate. The description of the sediment pond water lacks the rationale of why specific laboratory analyses were done, why other possible tests were not done, and what the resulting data mean to the hydrologic system.

Please contact Carter Reed or Dale Harber at (435) 637-2817 if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

for
JANETTE S. KAISER
Forest Supervisor

cc:
George Tetrault, BLM/Price UT