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Canyon Fuel Company, Inc.

Skyline Mines

P.O. Box 719

Helper, Utah 84526

(801) 637-7925 Fax: (801) 636-2632

ACT/057/005 #2
N-97-39-5-1
Joe

September 11, 1997

Mr. John Kuzar
District Manager
Mine Safety & Health Administration
P.O. Box 25367
Denver, CO 80225-0367

RE: Ventilation Plan Amendment
Skyline Mine No. 3
I.D. #42-01566

Dear Mr. Kuzar:

The Division of Oil, Gas, & Mining (DOGM) regulations require MSHA approval for discharging water underground and for storing mine waste rock underground. DOGM feels that since the slurry system discharges water and waste rock underground that the system needs MSHA approval. Skyline Mines sought approval from MSHA for the slurry system on January 17, 1997 (see attached letter). MSHA responded that the project was not subject to MSHA approval, but that the project addressed MSHA concerns about ventilation, grounding, and discharging down dip (see attached MSHA response letter).

At the request of DOGM, Skyline is providing MSHA with additional information on the slurry system to see if further approval is needed. The slurry system utilizes 500 gpm of water to slurry 100 tons/hr of waste rock to the 7 Right Tailgate Seals in the West Mains. The waste rock typically contains less than 1% coal. The portal yard sediment pond is used as the primary source of water for the slurry system.

As previously mentioned, the slurry pipeline is grounded and discharges down dip behind the seals. The area in front of the seals is continuously ventilated to maintain acceptable air quality. If you have any additional questions, please call Dan Ferriter at (801) 636-2669.

Sincerely,

Dan Meadors FOR DAN MEADORS 9/11/97

General Manager