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

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TO: File

THRU: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Paul Baker, Reclamation Biologist

RE: Waste Rock Expansion, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC, Skyline Mines, ACT/007/005-98F, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

SUMMARY:

Canyon Fuel is proposing to expand the waste rock disposal site associated with the Skyline Mines. This review does not discuss all aspects of the regulations. The current mining and reclamation plan contains baseline vegetation and wildlife information for the area. No additional information is needed, and the plan has adequate operation plan commitments for wildlife protection.

Based on observations of the site and a review of the current mining and reclamation plan, no changes to the reclamation plan are recommended. The applicant does need to do some site maintenance, however.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-411

Analysis:

Appendix A-3 of the existing mining and reclamation plan contains a cultural resources survey report for the waste rock disposal area. This survey was conducted in 1981. The only site that was to be disturbed by mining was the UP Canyon strip mine, and it was not considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. No sites were found in the proposed expansion area.

Findings:

Information provided in the application is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

REVEGETATION

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-341

Analysis:

The existing mining and reclamation plan discusses revegetation of the waste rock disposal site. This plan is considered adequate. All but one species in the seed mix were found growing on revegetated portions of the site in a 1998 field visit, and no signs of serious erosion were found.

The plan says the applicant will use the best mulching technology available at the time of reclamation, and the applicant has been using erosion control matting. While this appears to be working properly, the netting has not been deteriorating. In the future, the applicant should use matting with netting that will degrade over time. Existing netting needs to be removed from the site.

Findings:

Information provided in the application is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations. Netting from the erosion control matting has not been deteriorating, and it needs to be removed. In the future, the applicant should use netting that will degrade more quickly.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Biology and land use sections of the application are considered adequate and can be approved. The Division recommends the applicant use netting that will degrade more quickly than what has been used in the past.