

0007



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210

PO Box 145801

Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

801-538-5340

801-359-3940 (Fax)

801-538-7223 (TDD)

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

Lowell P. Braxton
Division Director

October 8, 1998

Dan Meadors, General Manager
Canyon Fuel Company, LLC
P.O. Box 719
Helper, Utah 84526

Re: Parshall Flume Placement, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC, Skyline Mine, ACT/007/005-98E, File #2, Carbon County, Utah

Dear Mr. Meadors:

The referenced amendment has been reviewed by Senior Reclamation Specialist Mike Suflita. Mike's analysis and findings are provided for your review and response.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

OPERATION PLAN:

Regulatory Reference R645-301-121.200

Analysis:

The revisions describing the flume installation are unclear. Reference is made to "four surface monitoring points....in this area..." and that "nine flumes have been installed" and that "two new flumes will be installed". The reader is left confused as to how many flumes are actually being used in the monitoring program. Reference is made to the two new flumes being shown on Plate 2.3.6-1. That is the base map showing all the other flumes while the two new flumes are actually shown on Plate 2.3.6-1a. It's important to clarify just how many flumes are in place and a clear indication of what maps show their location.

Findings:

Minimum regulatory requirements are not met. Prior to approval, the Applicant must provide the following in accordance with:

R645-301-121.200, a clear and concise explanation of the number of flumes used in the surface water monitoring program and correct references to the plates showing their location.

Parshall Flume Placement
ACT/007/005-98E
October 8, 1998
Page 2

Regulatory Reference R645-301-731.200

Analysis:

The submittal describes the addition of two new (additional) flumes in Swens Creek and Little Swens Creek. No description is given as to why these are being added at this time. Verbal discussions with the Applicant indicated they are to provide baseline data in the possible event that underground mining proceeds to the west under the two creek. This information should be included in the plan. This additional monitoring of surface waters does not incur any obligation on the Applicant. Otherwise, the flumes and monitoring conform to the regulations.

A brief field visit to the flume installation locations showed they are adequately positioned.

Findings:

Minimum hydrologic regulatory requirements are met. However, prior to approval, the Applicant must provide the following in accordance with:

R645-301-731.200, a brief description of why the change to the mining and reclamation plan is being proposed.

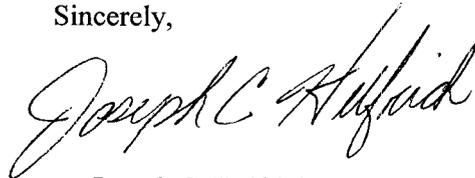
RECOMMENDATION:

Prior to approval, the Applicant must meet the requirements of R645-301-731.200 and R645-301-121.200 by clarifying the text as described above. In light of the lateness of the season, and the fact the only corrections are to clarify the text, the Division could authorize installation of the flumes immediately.

The Division does not have a problem with the installation of the flumes at this time. However we would ask that you provide the necessary clarification as outlined in the recommendation section of the technical analysis by October 21, 1998.

If you have any questions, please call.

Sincerely,



Joseph C. Helfrich
Permit Supervisor