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

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March 2, 1999

TO: File  
THRU: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor *DH*  
THRU: Joe Helfrich, Permit Supervisor *JH*  
FROM: Michael Suflita, Reclamation Hydrologist *MS*  
RE: Waste Rock Expansion, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC, Skyline Mine,  
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 Mine. The Division received the latest, or fourth, amendment submittal on March 3, 1999. This TA is in response to that submittal. This is a review of the hydrological aspects of the latest submittal.

**TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:**

**HYDROLOGIC RESOURCE INFORMATION**

Regulatory Reference R645-301-121.200

**Analysis:**

The latest submittal is a revision to Chapter 4 with the addition of pages 4-83 (a), (b), and (c). The two ponds to be left at reclamation are described in detail and include the volume and size of each. The time the ponds have been in place demonstrates that they will be stable and capable of supporting their intended use. Similarly, they are adequately safe and have access for the proposed users, namely livestock. This is demonstrated by the design analysis referenced for the lower pond, and the fact that the upper pond is fully incised without any embankments. Pond operation is described including compliance with the UPDES requirements when emptying the pond by pumping.

The application is still missing a demonstration that the impounded water will be

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suitable for its intended use. Phone conversations with the applicant indicate they are aware of the State of Utah Water Quality Standard for agricultural purposes. However, the pond is currently frozen and covered with snow so it's not possible to take a representative water sample. This will be necessary to perform in the spring.

### **Findings:**

The permanent impoundments are of the size and configuration for their intended purposes. The water level is expected to be stable and capable of supporting their intended use and are safe for the access of the proposed water users. Both impoundments are suitable for the post-mining land use.

However, the information provided in the application is not considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations. Prior to approval, the Applicant must provide the following in accordance with the requirements of:

**R645-301-733.220**, demonstration that the quality of water impounded will be suitable for agricultural use.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The submittal appears to be in regulatory compliance in all respects except for water sample data which physically cannot be achieved until spring. As such, the permit modification can be approved subject to a stipulation that the water quality be demonstrated as suitable no later than June 15, 1999.