



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Manti-La Sal
National Forest

Supervisor's Office
599 West Price River Drive
Price, UT 84501
Phone # (435) 637-2817
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File Code: 2820-4

Date: May 26, 2000

Mary Ann Wright
Utah Department of Natural Resources
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
P.O. Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

Incoming
ACT/007/005

RE: Abandonment of Equipment Underground, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC Skyline Mines,
and Carbon County, Utah

Dear Mary Ann:

The Bureau of Land Management, Price Field Office advised us on May 22, 2000, of a request by Canyon Fuel Company to abandon 28 longwall shields in place after completing the 16 left longwall panel in the Skyline Mine. The request was made in a letter to the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, dated May 18, 2000.

After discussing the request with Canyon Fuel, we are convinced that it would be unsafe to remove the last three shields in the tailgate section, but the remaining 25 shields in the headgate section can be removed under conditions normally associated with a longwall move. It is apparent that Canyon Fuel's intent for abandoning them in the mine is for disposal at less expense than for removing them.

We object to leaving the headgate shields in the mine for disposal purposes, but do not object to abandoning the last three shields at the tailgate in-place because of the associated extraordinary safety risk. Forest Service policy precludes disposal of solid wastes on National Forest System lands. Mining equipment abandoned for economic disposal purposes clearly falls under the category of "solid waste" and must be removed from the mine and properly disposed of at a licensed facility or recycled. Exceptions can be made for those cases where extraordinary safety risks are involved.

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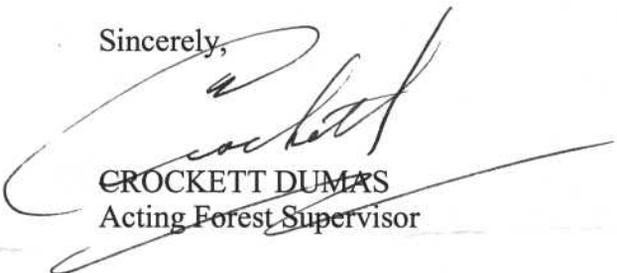
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DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS AND MINING



Removal of all hazardous, toxic, and other solid wastes, as well as used oil, must take place as proposed in Canyon Fuel's letter of May 18, 2000.

Sincerely,



CROCKETT DUMAS
Acting Forest Supervisor

cc

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Dick Manus, BLM Price Field Office Manager

Sally Wisely, BLM Utah State Director

Chris Hansen, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC, HC 35 Box 380, Helper, Utah 84526

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