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

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August 22, 2000

TO: Internal File

THRU.: Mike Suflita, Team Lead *MS*

FROM: Wayne H. Western, Senior Reclamation Specialist *WHW*

RE: Incidental Boundary Change to the Skyline Mines MRP to Include the Connelville Development Tract, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC, Skyline Mine ACT/007/005-IB00C

SUMMARY:

On August 17, 2000, the Division received an ICB for the addition of 27.9 acres for the Skyline Mine. The permittee made the request because they found the location of the Connelville fault was farther to the southeast than original thought. Because the fault's location is further to the southeast, the permittee can extend the longwall further than originally thought. The permittee wants to include the 27.9 acres so they can continue development work while the Division process the UP&L lease. If approval is not given by August 24, 2000, the permittee must stop development work or abandon 250,000 tons of coal.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

PERMIT AREA

Regulatory Requirements: 30 CFR Sec. 783.12; R645-301-521.

Analysis:

The permittee proposed to add 27.9 acres to their current permit area. The additional 27.9 acres is needed for development work while the Division process the UP&L lease.

TECHNICAL MEMO

Part of the current permit boundary is the Connelville fault. The permittee was planning to do development work until they reached the fault. During mining the permittee found that the fault extended further to the southeast than they originally believed. The permittee wants to have the 27.9 acres incorporated into the permit so that they can continue to do development work. If the 27.9 acres are not incorporated into the permit area, the permittee must either cease development work until the UP&L lease is approved or leave 250,000 tons of coal unrecovered.

The IBC is in Section 2 Township 14 South, Range 6 East. The IBC boundary is shown on several maps including the map entitled Mine 3 Level 2 Skyline Mine Preliminary Mine Plan.

Findings:

The requirements of this section of the regulations are considered adequate in regard to the proposed permit change for the addition of 27.9 acre IBC.

MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 783.24, 783.25; R645-301-323, -301-411, -301-521, -301-622, -301-722, -301-731.

Analysis:

Existing Structures and Facilities Maps

No structures or facilities exist in the IBC.

Existing Surface Configuration Maps

The existing surface configuration is shown on several maps including the drawing 1.6-1con.dwg, Land Ownership.

Mine Workings Maps

No mine workings exist in the IBC

Permit Area Boundary Maps

The permit boundary for the IBC is shown on Mine 3 Level 2 Skyline Mine Preliminary Mine Plan.

Surface and Subsurface Ownership Maps

The surface ownership map is shown on drawing 1.6-1con.dwg, Land Ownership.

Contour Maps

The existing surface configuration is shown on several maps including the drawing 1.6-1 con.dwg, Land Ownership.

Findings:

The requirements of this section of the regulations are considered adequate in regard to the proposed permit change for the addition of 27.9 acre IBC.

OPERATION PLAN

MINING OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.2, 784.11; R645-301-231, -301-526, -301-528.

Analysis:

General

The permittee proposes to extend the longwall panel development into the 27.9 acre IBC. The permittee will not conduct longwall operations in the area until the 459 acres UP&L lease has been approved. If the permittee does not do the development work now, they must either lose recovering 250,000 tons of coal or stop development work until the UP&L lease is approved.

Type and Method of Mining Operations

The permittee committed to do development mining only in the 27.9 acre IBC until the 459 acre IBC has been approved.

Facilities and Structures

The permittee does not propose any new facilities or structures.

Findings:

The requirements of this section of the regulations are considered adequate in regard to the proposed permit change for the addition of 27.9 acre IBC.

TECHNICAL MEMO

COAL RECOVERY

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 817.59; R645-301-522.

Analysis:

The permittee proposed to add 27.9 acres to their current permit area. The additional 27.9 acres is needed so that the permittee can do development work while they wait for the UP&L lease to be approved. If the 27.9 acres are not incorporated into the permit area the permittee must either cease mining or leave 250,000 tons of coal unrecovered.

Part of the current permit boundary is the Connelville fault. The permittee was planning to do development work until they reached the fault. During mining the permittee found that the fault extended further than they originally believed. The permittee wants to have the 27.9 acres incorporated into the permit so that they can continue to do development work.

Findings:

The requirements of this section of the regulations are considered adequate in regard to the proposed permit change for the addition of 27.9 acre IBC.

SUBSIDENCE CONTROL PLAN

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.20, 817.121, 817.122; R645-301-521, -301-525, -301-724.

Analysis:

Renewable resources survey

The permittee conducted a renewable resource survey as part of the 459 acres IBC submittal and found that renewable resources exist within the 27.9 IBC boundary.

Subsidence control plan

The permittee plans to do first mining only in the 27.9 IBC until the UP&L lease is approved. On page 2-101 of the revised submittal received August 22, 2000, the permittee states that no subsidence will occur in the 27.9 acre IBC. Subsidence will be prevented by first mining only.

Performance standards for subsidence control

The performance standards for subsidence are listed in the MRP.

Findings:

The requirements of this section of the regulations are considered adequate in regard to the proposed permit change for the addition of 27.9 acre IBC.

MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF MINING OPERATIONS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.23; R645-301-512, -301-521, -301-542, -301-632, -301-731, -302-323.

Analysis:

Affected area maps

The permittee showed the change in the permit boundary on several maps including Map 1.6-1con.dwg, Land Ownership. The Division considered the permit area for the Skyline Mine to be the same as the affected area.

Mining facilities maps

The permittee does not propose any changes to the mining facilities maps

Mine workings maps

The map entitled Mine3 Level 2 Skyline Mine Preliminary Mine Plan shows the proposed changes to the mine workings.

Findings:

The requirements of this section of the regulations are considered adequate in regard to the proposed permit change for the addition of the 27.9 IBC.

RECLAMATION PLAN

BONDING AND INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 800; R645-301-800, et seq.

TECHNICAL MEMO

Analysis:

Determination of bond amount

The Division review the proposed 27.9 IBC and found that the proposal does not require an adjustment of the bond at this time. A bond adjustment is not needed because no new activities will occur in the disturbed area boundaries.

Findings:

The requirements of this section of the regulations are considered adequate in regard to the proposed permit change for the addition of the 27.9 IBC.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Division should approve the 27.9 acres IBC.

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