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

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August 25, 2000

TO: **Internal File** *mjd*

THRU: Mike Suflita, Project Lead *[Signature]*

FROM: Paul Baker, Reclamation Biologist *[Signature]*

RE: Connelville Development Tract, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC, ACT/007/005-  
IB00C

**SUMMARY:**

On August 17, 2000, the Division received a proposal from Canyon Fuel Company to add 27.9 acres to its permit area. Only development mining with no subsidence would be done in the area.

**TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:**

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

**GENERAL CONTENTS**

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-100

**Analysis:**

There are two changes to the section of the application addressing the general contents regulations. The land ownership information has been updated to include the surface and subsurface owners of the area that would be added to the permit area. This information appears to be complete.

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**TECHNICAL MEMO**

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The application includes right of entry information for the area, including a legal description and information about the lease with Utah Power and Light to mine the coal. This information also appears to be complete.

**Findings:**

Information in the proposal is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION****HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE INFORMATION**

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-411.140

**Analysis:**

Appendix A-3 of the current mining and reclamation plan contains various cultural resources reports, mostly about the current permit area. There has been some survey work done in the proposed addition to the permit area as part of exploration operations. A report dated October 2, 1978, from Archeological-Environmental Research Corporation details a survey conducted in the area. One drill hole and about two seismic lines in the James Canyon area were surveyed, and nothing "of any significance" was found.

The applicant has fulfilled the regulatory requirement to include available cultural resource information about the area. In all of the cultural resource surveys of the area, including a 100% survey of disturbed areas and a 10% survey of the rest of the permit area, only a few sites were found, and none of these was considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The entire area proposed to be added to the permit area was not surveyed, but because of the lack of significant sites in the area, because there has been some survey work done with no cultural resource sites found, and because there will be no surface disturbance, including subsidence, information in the application is considered adequate.

**Findings:**

Information in the proposal is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

## VEGETATION INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-321

### **Analysis:**

The application includes no new vegetation information, but because there will be no surface disturbance, including subsidence, this information is not needed.

### **Findings:**

Information in the proposal is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

## FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-322

### **Analysis:**

The applicant does not propose to subside any areas, so there should be no effects on fish and wildlife habitat. There should also be no effects on threatened or endangered species. For this reason, no fish and wildlife information is required.

### **Findings:**

Information in the proposal is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

## LAND USE RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-411

### **Analysis:**

The application includes no new information about land use in the proposed addition, so it is assumed the land uses are the same as those in the current permit area. These uses include recreation, grazing, and wildlife habitat. Since the vegetation communities are essentially the same as in the current permit area, it is reasonable to expect these same uses.

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**TECHNICAL MEMO**

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**Findings:**

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

**OPERATION PLAN****PROTECTION OF PUBLIC PARKS AND HISTORIC PLACES**

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-411.140

**Analysis:**

The proposed addition to the permit area contains no known cultural resource sites, so no protection plan should be needed. In a letter dated August 14, 2000, the Division of State History has concurred with the Division's assessment that no sites would be adversely affected by the larger Utah Power and Light Tract which includes the current proposal.

**Findings:**

Information in the proposal is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

**FISH AND WILDLIFE PROTECTION PLAN**

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-333

**Analysis:**

The application includes no changes to the wildlife protection and enhancement plan, and because the Division does not expect subsidence or any other adverse effects to fish and wildlife habitat or threatened and endangered species, no protection plan is needed. Representatives of the Division of Wildlife Resources were informed of this proposal in a meeting on August 23, 2000, and they agreed there was no need for baseline wildlife information or a protection plan.

Any water depletions are considered to negatively affect the threatened and endangered fish of the upper Colorado River basin. The application includes no new information about additional water use, but, according to verbal information from the applicant, this is because the

mine would use no more water if this amendment is approved than it is currently using. Therefore, there should be no additional negative effects.

**Findings:**

Information in the proposal is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The reviewed portions of the submittal are complete and accurate and can be approved.