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

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March 13, 2001

TO: Internal File

THRU: Mike J. Suflita, Team Lead *MS*

FROM: James D. Smith, Reclamation Specialist *JDS*

RE: IBC - UP&L Tract, Canyon Fuel Company LLC, Skyline Mine, C/007/005-
IB00B-1

SUMMARY:

On July 26, 2000 the Division received a proposal from Canyon Fuel Corp. to add 459 acres to the permit area for Skyline Mine. The new tract is located on privately owned property south of the existing permit area. The coal is owned by Utah Power & Light and would be mined through a lease agreement between the two parties because Skyline Mine has the most reasonable access to the coal. Deficiencies in the proposal were identified in a TA dated October 26, 2000. Skyline's response to that TA was received by the Division on February 21, 2001.

Concurrent with the July submittal, the interim Connelville Development Tract IBC proposal was submitted on August 17, 2000, which was to allow mining of 27.9 acres in the UP&L Tract. New information on the location of the Connelville Fault had indicated the Connelville Fault to be farther east than previously thought, and the Connelville Development Tract IBC was to allow extension of a longwall panel and possible recovery of approximately 250,000 tons of additional coal. Time was of the essence to prevent bypassing the coal. The Connelville Development Tract IBC amendment to the plan was approved on August 8, 2000.

TECHNICAL MEMO

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

GEOLOGIC RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.22; R645-301-623, -301-724.

Analysis:

X Only one minor change, a reference to additional surface geology mapped on Plate 2.2.1-1a, has been made to the text in Section 2.2 - Geology. However, with the February 2001 submittal, Plate 2.2.1-1a is no longer part of the proposed amendment and reference to it should be deleted from the text

X The discussion of geologic resource information in the current MRP includes the area of the UP&L Tract IBC. New Plates 2.2.1-1 (Geology), 2.2.7-3 (Lower O'Conner 'B' Isopach Map), and 2.2.7- 4 (Overburden Isopach Map Lower O'Conner 'B' Seam) that include the UP&L tract are in the submittal. Isopach information for the IBC area comes from bore holes 98-2-1, 98-3-1c, and 98-3-2c. Logs for these bore holes are in the Confidential folder. Water-invasion depths are noted on the logs, but no static water levels.

X Bore hole 98-2-1 has been completed as water-monitoring well W2-1 in the Star Point Sandstone, below the Lower O'Conner 'B' seam. Water level measurements have been obtained from this well since 1998. The water level measurements are summarized in a table in Appendix Volume A-1, Hydrology.

Findings:

X **R645-301-121.200**, remove the reference on page 2-2 to Plate 2.2.1-1a because that Plate is no longer part of the submittal.

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:

Coal Resource and Geologic Information Maps

X The submittal contains a new Plate 2.2.1-1 (Surface Geology) that covers the permit area including the UP&L tract and the adjacent areas. Coverage on this map extends only 1,000 feet beyond the southern boundary of the UP&L tract, but according to Plate 3.1.8-3 mining will stop approximately one-half mile north of that boundary, so Plate 2.2.1-1 covers sufficient area.

X The Connellville Fault lies roughly along the eastern boundary of the IBC. Plate 2.2.1-1 shows north-south oriented faults that splay-off from this major fault into the UP&L tract. Another north-south fault is projected roughly through the middle of the UP&L tract.

X New versions of Plates 2.2.7-3 (Lower O'Conner 'B' Isopach Map) and 2.2.7-4 (Overburden Isopach Map Lower O'Conner 'B' Seam) are in the IBC submittal. On the current versions of these plates, the contour lines end at the permit area boundary: the new maps show the isopach thicknesses for the permit area, the IBC area, and a large adjacent area. Isopach information for the IBC area appears to come mainly from bore holes 98-2-1, 98-3-1c, and 98-3-2c. Plates 2.2.1-1 (Geology), 2.2.7-3 (Lower O'Conner 'B' Isopach Map), and 2.2.7-4 (Overburden Isopach Map Lower O'Conner 'B' Seam) also show topography for the proposed permit area and adjacent areas.

Findings:

Maps, Plans, and Cross Sections of Geologic Resource Information are sufficient to meet the requirements of this section of the Coal Mining Rules.

RECOMMENDATION:

Prior to approval, the requirements of R645-121-200 must be met as outlined above.