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TO: Internal File

FROM: Michael J. Suflita, Senior Reclamation Hydrologist, Team Lead *M.J.S.*

RE: Temporary Pipeline, Canyon Fuel Co., LLC., Skyline Mine, C/007/005-AM01G

SUMMARY:

At 5:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 16, 2001, Skyline Mine operations encountered large water inflows that forced evacuation of machinery and personnel. The location is in Entries 1 and 2 setting up for longwall panel 10L. The water is coming in from a fault and is estimated at 4,500 gpm. Mining operations were shut down and all energies were devoted to dealing with the water. The option selected to most effectively deal with the water is to drill from the surface down to the fault and pump the water away before it enters the mine. This is expected to relieve water inflows to the mine. The water would be conveyed in a temporary pipeline down James Canyon to be discharged into Electric Lake. This amendment is concerned only with the installation of the temporary pipeline. A future amendment will deal with construction of surface facilities, actual pumping of the water, and attendant activities. This amendment contains no deficiencies and can be approved.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

OPERATION PLAN

HYDROLOGIC INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 773.17, 774.13, 784.14, 784.16, 784.29, 817.41, 817.42, 817.43, 817.45, 817.49, 817.56, 817.57; R645-300-140, -300-141, -300-142, -300-143, -300-144, -300-145, -300-146, -300-147, -300-147, -300-148, -301-512, -301-514, -301-521, -301-531, -301-532, -301-533, -301-536, -301-542, -301-720, -301-731, -301-732, -301-733, -301-742, -301-743, -301-750, -301-761, -301-764.

Analysis:

TECHNICAL MEMO

General

The flooding in Skyline Mine is to be dealt with by drilling down from the surface to intercept groundwater flows in the fault that is carrying the water. This is expected to relieve water flows into the mine. The water will eventually be pumped to the surface and conveyed in a temporary pipeline down James Canyon to discharge into Electric Lake. This amendment is concerned only with the installation of a temporary pipeline down James Canyon. The pipe is to be laid on top of the ground following the route of an old road. This road was abandoned in about 1970 when Electric Lake was built, cutting off access to the road. Although somewhat covered with vegetation, the road is still suitable for the temporary pipeline. The length of pipeline is about 3,500 feet, with all of it being on the north and west side of James Canyon. This is shown on Plate 1.6-3, Skyline Mines Permit Area with Dewatering Drill Hole and Pipe Locations.

A second amendment is expected to follow this one very soon. That second amendment will include burying a pipeline along the same alignment and pumping water in the pipeline. The temporary pipeline may be buried OR a new and different line may be buried and the temporary line removed.

Ground-water monitoring

The U.S. Forest Service provided a Decision Memo signed on August 22, 2001 in which they gave consent to run the temporary pipeline across Forest Service property. That memo included Conditions of Consent. Condition No. 9 indicates, "Continuous flow measurements of water pumped and discharged must be made and reported to the regulatory authorities. Quality monitoring must be conducted consistent with the Utah Coal Rules and approved in the mine plan." Condition No. 20 indicates, "An inventory of springs in the James Canyon area must be completed and a monitoring proposal submitted to the regulatory authority for approval." Carter Reed of the Forest Service indicated the Utah Division of Oil, Gas, & Mining was intended as one of the regulatory agencies. Therefore, the flow measurements and spring monitoring proposal will need to be submitted to the Division as they are completed.

Stream buffer zones

As determined by a field visit last year, the old road in James Canyon is located on the north side of the canyon. The road is well up and away from the stream channel. Pictures taken a year ago were checked to confirm these conditions. It's expected that the road location relative to the stream should result in no problems with impacts to the stream. While the distance from the road to the stream has not been determined, the conditions (as described above) make it allowable for operations to be conducted within 100 feet of the stream.

Sediment control measures

The amendment proposes to simply drag the pipe sections down the road and connect them to become a continuous pipe. This should not result in sediment being conveyed to the stream. However, the operator is cautioned during the operations to prevent loose dirt and rock from getting into the stream.

Findings:

The amendment meets minimum regulatory requirements.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The amendment can be approved in its present form.