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

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October 23, 2001

TO: Internal File

THRU: Mike Suflita, Senior Reclamation Specialist/Hydrologist, Team Lead *MS*

FROM: Susan M. White, Senior Reclamation Specialist/Biologist *SMW*

RE: Burial of Power Line, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC, Skyline Mines,
C/007/005-1B011-1

SUMMARY:

The Division received an amendment to the Mining and Reclamation Plan to bury a power line for dewatering wells in James Canyon on October 18, 2001. The power cables will be permanently buried along the Forest Service road from the Questar Gas building to the well in James Canyon. The amendment meets the minimum vegetation requirements of the regulations.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: Pub. L 95-87 Sections 507(b), 508(a), and 516(b); 30 CFR 783., et. al.

VEGETATION RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 783.19; R645-301-320.

Analysis:

The power cables will be buried from the Questar gas line building on Trough Spring Ridge to the wells in James Canyon. All disturbance associated with the power cable burial will be in the existing road borrow. Any disturbance outside the road borrow should be so minor that additional vegetation studies are unwarranted.

Findings:

The information provided in the application meets the minimum Vegetation Resources Information requirements of the regulations.

REVEGETATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 785.18, 817.111, 817.113, 817.114, 817.116; R645-301-244, -301-353, -301-354, -301-355, -301-356, -302-280, -302-281, -302-282, -302-283, -302-284.

Analysis:

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The seed mixture for use in the aspen/mountain herblands in James Canyon is shown on page 3-28. (The buried cable is not restricted to James Canyon but the seed mixture is appropriate for use throughout the area.) The seed mixture was discussed and agreed to with the Forest Service.¹ The Division assumes that the general seeding times and methods identified in the existing MRP will be followed for any seeding of disturbances associated with the buried power cable. Seeding will only be done if areas outside the road barrow are disturbed. Seeding of the roadbed is not required. It is anticipated that any disturbance of existing undisturbed vegetation will be minimal.

¹ Phone conversation with Bob Thompson, Patrick Collins, and Susan White on October 15, 2001.

Findings:

The information provided in the application meets the minimum Revegetation requirements of the regulations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The minimum regulatory requirements related to vegetation have been met for the buried cable amendment. However, approval is not recommended because of the confusing drawings and text describing disturbed areas associated with this amendment. For example:

- DWG. No.:1.6(3)A shows the water well within the disturbed area boundary. The water well is still covered under an exploration permit and should not be approved as part of the disturbed area until additional reclamation information is provided.
- The text at the bottom of DWG. No.:1.6-3 describes the disturbed area and states that 2.95 acres of disturbance is James Canyon water wells and road. Again the water wells and road are currently permitted under an exploration permit administered by the BLM. Required reclamation plans have not been provided to approve permitting of the road and water well.