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October 23, 2001

TO: Internal File

FROM: Michael Sufflita, Senior Reclamation Specialist/Hydrology *MS*

RE: Burial of Power Line, Canyon Fuel Corp., Skyline Mine, C/007/005-IB01I-1.

SUMMARY:

On September 27, 2001 the Division received an amendment to install a buried powerline from the ridge above James Canyon down the canyon to a well drilling site in the canyon. The amendment contained insufficient information for a complete evaluation by the Division. Therefore, an email was sent on October 11, 2001 to Gary Taylor outlining the missing information and requesting a full response no later than October 19, 2001. An email was chosen to save time on this urgent situation with flooding occurring in the mine. On October 18, 2001 the Division received a second submittal for the buried powerline. This Technical Memo is a review of the Hydrologic and Administrative elements of that submittal. There are no deficiencies.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

GENERAL CONTENTS

Analysis

RIGHT OF ENTRY

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 778.15; R645-301-114

See Dwg. No. 1.6-3, Skyline Mines Permit Area. The powerline is to be buried on the uphill side of an existing road. This road extends from property owned by Questar on the ridge-top down James Canyon to a water well pumping pad just north of the Forest Service boundary. The buried powerline is divided into three distinct lengths along the same road. The first length is on the Questar property. The amendment contains an Easement from Questar indicating that Canyon Fuel Co. LLC is assigned a "perpetual easement and right-of-way for an underground electric transmission line" on their property. The Easement is signed by Shahab Saeed, Vice President Support Services of Questar Pipeline Co. on October 23, 2001

The second length of road is on Forest Service property and is designated Monument Peak Road, Forest System Road 50018. This length extends from the Questar property to the existing boundary of the Skyline Mine Permit Area. A Special Use Permit issued by the Forest Service for that portion of the road only, is included in the amendment. The permit grants entry and stipulates construction methods. That permit is signed by Aaron Howe for Elaine Zieroth, Forest Supervisor on October 15, 2001 and by Gary E. Taylor, Canyon Fuel Co. on October 10, 2001.

The third length of road is on Forest Service property within the Skyline Mine Permit area. Since it's already in the Permit Area, the Forest Service reviewed the amendment and sent the Division a letter indicating, "We hereby consent to approval of the amendment for that portion of the (buried powerline) project that lies within the current mine permit area." Construction conditions are included with that consent. The letter is signed by Aaron Howe for Elaine Zieroth, Forest Supervisor on October 15, 2001.

Road lengths are summarized as follows. All figures are scaled from Dwg. 1.6-3. Pipeline below well pad: 3,520 ft. Well pad to Permit Boundary 6,250 ft. Permit Boundary to Questar property boundary 3,750 ft. Questar property 120 ft., this last dimension being taken from the Easement document.

The Applicant has met minimum regulatory requirements for Right of Entry.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION AND STATUS OF UNSUITABILITY CLAIMS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 778.16; 30 CFR 779.12(a); 30 CFR 779.24(a)(b)(c); R645-300-121.120; R645-301-112.800; R645-300-141; R645-301-115.

Page 1-42(a) of the amendment contains a table entitled Legal Description of Permit Area. It has been updated to reflect the new portions of the Permit Area added as a result of this powerline amendment. The list is by Township with an indication of Section within the Township and portions now contained in the permit. The table references Dwg. 1.6-3, Skyline Mines Permit Area, which shows the actual areas on a topographic map including the Township Sections.

Revised acreages are found on page 1-41 and 1-42, as well as on Dwg. 1.6-3. The areas were checked for accuracy and consistency and they appear to be correct.

The Applicant has met minimum regulatory requirements for Legal Description.

Findings:

The submittal meets minimum regulatory requirements.

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:

Sediment control measures

The amendment describes the powerline being buried in a trench that is four feet deep. In rocky soil conditions a track-hoe will be used. Otherwise, a trencher will be used. Typical cross-section drawing show the road, embankments, and the powerline. After installation of the four direct-burial cables, all soils will be replaced in the trench. Soils returned to the trench will be compacted to 100% of Standard Proctor. This was a stipulation in the Forest Service permits. This compaction will greatly reduce the erodeability of the disturbed soils. The road surface will be returned to conditions before trenching.

Silt fences will be used for sediment control. They will be placed at all culvert inlets, at the ends of ditches that drain onto open ground, and on the downhill side of the trench in areas of overland flow. Silt fences are standard sediment control measures and should perform adequately when installed properly. Past experience with this Operator, and typical silt fence installation drawings in the MRP, leads to the understanding that they will be installed correctly.

The Applicant has met minimum regulatory requirements for Sediment Control Measures.

Findings:

The submittal meets minimum regulatory requirements.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The amendment should be approved in its present form.