



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Manti-La Sal  
National Forest

Ferron/Price Ranger District  
Ferron Work Center  
115 West Canyon Road  
P.O. Box 310  
Ferron, UT 84523  
Phone # (435) 384-2372  
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0036

File Code: 2820-4  
Date: June 27, 2002

*Incoming*  
*C/007/005*  
*Fax PFO*  
*Copy PAM*

Dear Interested Party:

Ark Land Company (a subsidiary of Arch Coal Inc.) on behalf of Canyon Fuel Company, LLC – Skyline Mine, proposes to conduct a “helicopter assisted coal exploration surface drilling program” during the 2002 field season in T.13S., R.6E., Section(s) 2, 10, 11. The proposed project would consist of one core hole to be drilled on federal coal lease U-0147570 and three core holes drilled on UTU-67939. These activities would be in the area of Winter Quarters Canyon west of the town Scofield. The depth of these holes would range from 1200 to 1800 feet. The purpose of this drilling program would be to provide information necessary to evaluate the coal seam thickness, quality, and to characterize the geology of the area’s coal reserves. The drilling technique would consist of wireline core from the surface to total depth. Cores would be obtained from the two potential mineable seams, the Lower O’Connor A, and the Flat Canyon (also called the Woods Canyon) seam. Drilling would go through the projected mineable coal horizons to at least 10 feet beneath the Flat Canyon seam. The purpose of this drilling program is to provide information necessary to evaluate the coal seam thickness, and characterize the geology of the area’s coal reserves. All disturbances would be properly reclaimed and seeded.

The Forest Service must decide whether or not to authorize occupancy and use, by issuing Ark Land Company a Special Use Permit for the exploration drilling activity.

Drilling activities are proposed to be helicopter supported, thus causing minimal surface impact. Since no other extraordinary circumstances have been identified, including inventoried roadless areas, it is anticipated that this action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA analysis (EA or EIS) under category 31.2 (3), “Approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of National Forest System lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land.”

Comments are invited on this proposal. To ensure consideration, comments should be sent to the

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Manti-La Sal National Forest, Tom Lloyd, Ferron-Price Ranger District, Box 310, Ferron, Utah, by August 5, 2002. To obtain further information about this project, contact Tom Lloyd at (435) 636-3596. If you choose to participate, please make your comments as specific as possible. All received comments will be considered. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses, would be considered part of the public record and would be available for public inspection.

Sincerely,

/s/John S. Healy  
JOHN S. HEALY  
Acting District Ranger