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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING

Reclamation and Enforcement

P.O. Box 46667

Denver, Colorado 80201-6667

IN REPLY REFER TO:

UT-0003

November 5, 2003

Utah Division of Oil, Gas, & Mining
Coal Regulatory Program
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
P.O. Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

RE: Canyon Fuel Company, LLC - "Skyline" Mine - Incorporation of the HCI Groundwater Model Report

Dear Sir or Madam:

This in response to the Utah Division of Oil, Gas, & Mining's (UT-DOGM) October 17, 2003, request for a decision, under 30 CFR 947.30, whether the above subject permit revision constitutes a mining plan modification.

Mining plan approvals by the Secretary of the Interior are required under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, 30 U.S.C. 181, *et seq.* before coal mining can occur on Federal lands. This letter serves to document OSM's determination whether or not a mining plan approval from the Secretary is required for the above permitting action.

OSM's review of the Incorporation of the HCI Groundwater Model Report revision has determined that it proposed to incorporate the report as Appendix J in the PHC for the Skyline mine, Utah State permit C/007/005.

Based on a review of the activities associated with the permit revision, OSM has determined that the proposal does not meet the requirements of 30 CFR 746.11(a) and 746.18(d). Therefore, the proposed permit revision does not constitute a mining plan action requiring Secretarial approval.

OSM's decision was based solely upon the Federal regulations under 30 CFR PART 746 and not the technical aspects of the revision application itself. Consequently, OSM's decision does not relieve UT-DOGM from coordinating the review and approval of the Incorporation of the HCI Groundwater Model Report with other Federal agencies for compliance with other Federal regulations.

OSM also electronically transmitted the October 17, 2003 request to the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service for their review and comment.

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DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

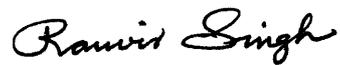
In an electronic transmittal dated November 5, 2003, the U.S. Forest service stated that it had no comments on the application.

The Bureau of Land Management did not provide any comments in the thirty day time frame established by the Federal regulations under 30 CFR 944.30, Article VI. D.

Please notify the applicant of our decision on this matter.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter or approval, please contact Carl R. Johnston, Utah Federal Lands coordinator, at (303) 844-1400, extension 1500.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ranvir Singh".

Ranvir Singh
Manager, Northwest Branch

cc: Denver Field Division