



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Utah State Office
P.O. Box 45155
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155
<http://www.blm.gov>



IN REPLY REFER TO:
3482
U-82243
(UT-923)

RECEIVED

JUN 14 2006

JUN 16 2006

DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

Canyon Fuel Company, LLC
c/o Ark Land Company
HC 35 Box 380
Helper, Utah 84526
Attn: Mark Bunnell

Henry
C/O 7005
Copy Wayne
PFO

Re: Approval of Request to Continue Drilling Operations on Exploration License U-82243, Granger Ridge Area, Carbon County, Utah

Dear Mr. Bunnell,

On December 9, 2006, BLM received a request from Ark Land Company, a subsidiary of Arch Coal, Inc., to continue exploration drilling per the plan approved September 19, 2005 on Exploration License UTU-82243 (issued September 21, 2005). Due to the late start last fall, only one of five drillholes (F-05) was completed. No plan modification was proposed.

After consultation with the Manti-La Sal National Forest, the surface management agency, two issues arose; the presence of goshawks (identified in the NEPA analysis in 2005) and elk calving and fawning. A goshawk survey was conducted by Maxim Technologies, Inc. of Salt Lake City, Utah, on June 8, 2006. This survey, of the four remaining drill sites (G-05 - J-05), the proposed flight lines, and other areas in which activities will be conducted, was conducted in accordance with the Manti-La Sal National Forest goshawk amended plan. No goshawks were present and no nesting sites were identified. In addition to goshawks, Maxim Technologies observed no elk calving and fawning in these areas.

The BLM approves the continuation of drilling on UTU-82243 pursuant to the license stipulations and plan approved as authorized in the original September 19, 2005 decision.

JAMES F KOHLER

James F. Kohler
Chief, Branch of Solid Minerals

cc: District Ranger, Ferron/Price Ranger District, Manti-La Sal National Forest
Forest Supervisor, Manti-La Sal National Forest
Director of Mining, Utah Division of Oil Gas and Mining
Field Office Manager, Price Field Office