

0042



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>

JUL 24 2007

IN REPLY REFER TO:
3482
UTU-67939
(UT-923)

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

*Lucy
a/007/0005*

Re: Approval of Minor Coal Exploration Plan on Federal Coal Lease UTU-67939; Carbon County, Utah

Dear Mr. Bunnell,

On October 12, 2006, BLM received a plan to conduct coal exploration on Federal Coal Lease UTU-67939. Ark Land Company, a subsidiary of Arch Coal, Inc., proposed to drill two exploration holes on lease, in Woods Canyon, to further evaluate the coal reserves in the northern portion of the lease. Primary access to the staging areas will be by Forest System roads, with access to the drill sites by foot, horse, or helicopter. Drilling would be helicopter-assisted wireline core drilling. A copy of the approved exploration plan is attached.

In both 2005 and 2006, Environmental Assessments (EAs) were conducted for similar exploration plans on lease UTU-67939, and Findings of No Significant Impact (FONSI) / Decision Records (DRs) were signed approving the plans. In a Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) completed on July 23, 2007, the existing NEPA documentation was found to be adequate. No additional issues requiring analysis or mitigation were identified. The terms and conditions (stipulations) of the 2006 FONSI/DR are approved for use on the 2007 exploration plan, with one exception. Stipulation 34 is not needed as a condition of the 2007 plan since the raptor surveys conducted in May and June of 2007 indicate that it is not necessary. The Manti-La Sal National Forest, per the requirements of 43 CFR 3482.2 (a)(1), has concurred to approval of this plan subject to the terms and conditions (stipulations).

File in: *007005 Lucy*
C
Refer to:
 Confidential
 Shelf
 Expandable
Date *07242007* For additional information

RECEIVED

JUL 25 2007

DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

The BLM approves the requested exploration plan for UTU-67939, subject to the terms and conditions of the lease and the stipulations in the attached 2006 FONSI/DR, with the exception of Stipulation 34.

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA), Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR Part 4, and the enclosed Form 1842-1. If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed in this office (at the above address) within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

Sincerely,

JAMES F KOHLER

James F. Kohler
Chief, Branch of Solid Minerals

Enclosure

1. Ark Land Company, Coal Exploration Plan, Federal Coal Lease UTU-67939
2. BLM FONSI/DR for EA-UT-923-06-005
3. Form 1842-1

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

2007 WQ Exploration Plan approval UTU-76939 PB-SA 7-20-07