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TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

July 26, 2012

TO: Internal File

THRU: Priscilla Burton, Lead *PWB/bm/sas*

FROM: Ingrid Campbell, Environmental Scientist III *IC*

RE: North Lease Permit Modification, Canyon Fuel Company, Skyline Mine, C/007/0005, Task ID #4092

SUMMARY:

On May 2, 2012, the Division received an application to extend the Skyline Mine North Lease area approximately 770.52 acres per the extension of the BLM coal Lease UTU-67939. The Division considers the application a significant revision to the Permit. The Division found the application to be administratively complete on June 15, 2012.

The application is not recommended for approval at this time. Prior to approval, the permittee must submit the following in accordance with:

R645-301-322.200: Please provide a commitment to survey for Boreal Toad, Columbia Spotted Frog, Townsends Western Big Eared Bat, Spotted Bat, and the Three Toed Woodpecker one year prior to undermining the north lease expansion area.

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TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: Pub. L 95-87 Sections 507(b), 508(a), and 516(b); 30 CFR 783., et. al.

HISTORIC AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 783.12; R645-301-411.

Analysis:

No surface disturbance is anticipated as a result of this application. Subsidence caused by underground mining would have a minimal affect on most historical resources. However, buildings or structures could be impacted. The application does not include historic or cultural resource reports. However, the Skyline M&RP contains several previous studies that include portions of the expansion area.

The AERC Project 1282 (EFX-91-1) located in the confidential volume 2 of the MRP contains a 10 acre sample unit in the southwest quarter of section 26 (T12SR6E). The unit contained no historic or cultural resource activity or isolated artifacts.

AERC Project 1470 (CSEC-95-1) is a cultural resource evaluation of seismic line corridors including a 1.78 mile seismic line along granger ridge in sections 25 and 26 of T12SR6E. The class III intensive inventory of this seismic line included a 20 to 40 meter wide corridor dependent on ground cover visibility and topography. A file search was also conducted. No prehistoric or cultural resources or isolated artifacts were discovered.

Findings:

The information contained in the Mining and Reclamation Plan is considered adequate to meet the Historic and Cultural Resource regulations.

VEGETATION RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 783.19; R645-301-320.

Analysis: