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CC: Priscilla
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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050



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OCT 13 2015

DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

October 9, 2015

Dear Interested Public Land User,

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), Western Region, will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) for the mining plan modification for the Canyon Fuel Company, LLC's (Canyon Fuel) Skyline Mine (the Project). Skyline Mine is located approximately five miles southwest of Scofield, in Carbon County, Utah. To comply with the Mineral Leasing Act 1920 (MLA), the DOI Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management (ASLM) must approve the Project before any mining and reclamation can occur on lands containing leased Federal coal.

Skyline Mine is an underground operation proposing to modify their Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 Permit Area to include approximately 2,692 acres of federal coal within the Flat Canyon Coal Lease Tract (UTU77114) and to access approximately 1,100 acres of private coal reserves. Coal occurs in two seams throughout the project area and the majority of these seams could be mined, using longwall mining technology, to produce approximately 36 million tons of coal and extend the life of the Skyline Mine by 9 to 12 years. UTU77114 was issued by the Bureau of Land Management, and by consent of the Manti-La Sal National Forest, on September 11, 2015.

OSMRE is preparing this EA to evaluate the environmental impacts resulting from the Project, pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The EA will disclose the potential for direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to the environment from the Project. Further, this EA will update, clarify, and provide new and additional environmental information for the Project. As a result of the EA process, OSMRE will determine whether or not there are significant environmental impacts. An environmental impact statement will be prepared if the EA identifies significant impacts. If a finding of no significant impact is reached, and pursuant to 30 CRF 746.13, OSMRE will prepare and submit to the ASLM a mining plan decision document recommending approval, disapproval, or conditional approval of the mining plan. The ASLM will approve, disapprove, or conditionally approve the mining plan approval document within the mining plan decision document. OSMRE is soliciting public comments. Your comments will help to determine the issues and alternatives that will be evaluated in the EA. You are invited to direct these comments to:

OSMRE WR
C/O: Nicole Caveny
Skyline Mine EA
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050

Comments may also be emailed to: OSM-NEPA-UT@OSMRE.gov, ensure the subject line reads: ATTN: OSMRE, Skyline Mine, Flat Canyon MPDD EA. Comments should be received or postmarked no later than November 9, 2015, in order to be considered during the preparation of the EA. Comments received, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project and will be available for public inspection. Additional information regarding the Project may be obtained from Nicole Caveny, telephone number (303) 293-5078. When available, the EA and other supporting documentation will be posted at and may be obtained from <http://www.wrcc.osmre.gov/initiatives/skylinemine.shtm>.

Sincerely, 



Marcelo Calle, Manager
Field Operations Branch