



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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3482 / (UT-9223)
UTU-77114

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DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

MEMORANDUM

To: David Barry, Regional Director
Western Region, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

From: Roger Bankert, Chief, Branch of Minerals *Roger Bankert*

Subject: Resource Recovery and Protection Plan, Federal Coal Lease Addition,
UTU-77114, Flat Canyon Lease, Skyline Mine, Canyon Fuel Company LLC

As part of the Permit Application Package to add new Federal coal lease UTU-77114 to the existing Skyline Mine Permit, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has received and reviewed a resource recovery and protection plan (R2P2) submitted by Canyon Fuel Company LLC (CFC). The R2P2 is required by the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, to assure conservation of the coal resource, meet maximum economic recovery (MER) and to diligently develop the Federal coal lease. This letter documents the BLM's findings for the R2P2.

CFC has submitted mining and reclamation plans (the R2P2 being part of the submission) to Utah Division of Oil Gas and Mining and your agency to add the new Flat Canyon coal lease (UTU-77114) to the existing Skyline Mine Permit. The lease will be mined using underground mining methods. Access to this lease will come from existing Skyline mine underground workings adjacent to the lease on the east. Existing Skyline mine surface facilities will be used. The BLM has reviewed the submitted R2P2 and has determined it to be complete and a logical plan to mine the Federal coal with the following additional clarifications and requirements:

1. The minimum interburden of 40 feet is based on engineering analyses and in-mine experience.
2. Top coal will be left only with the approval of the authorized officer. 43 CFR § 3484.1 (c) (3).
3. A lease stipulation limits mining under perennial streams (not the ROD).

4. The minimum mining height will be justified and approved by the authorized officer as geologic conditions indicate.
5. The reference to bond release section (page 18) discusses reclamation activities which is not part of the R2P2. 43 CFR § 3484.1 (5)¹
6. The ventilation shaft shown is a separate action and not on or part of the Flat Canyon Lease UTU-77114.

The BLM finds the submitted R2P2 in compliance with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, the lease terms and conditions, the regulations at 43 CFR 3480, and will achieve MER of the Federal coal. Therefore, we recommend that the Secretary approve the R2P2 as part of the permit application.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeff McKenzie of this office at (801) 539-4038.

Attachment:

1. Flat Canyon R2P2 - Lease UTU-77114

cc: Dana Dean, Associate Director
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
1594 West North Temple, Suite 120
P.O. Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

BLM Price Field Office, UTG020

¹ *Release of lease bond.* Subsequent to permanent abandonment of mining operations, the authorized officer will determine if the operator/lessee has met obligations required under the Federal lease for resource recovery and protection, and will determine if the operator/lessee has met the Federal lease requirements pertaining to rentals and royalties. The authorized officer will make appropriate recommendations to the authorized officer for reduction or termination of the Federal lease bond. 43 CFR § 3484.1 (5)