

2007005 Incoming



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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JUN 20 2016



DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

June 16, 2016

Dear Interested Party,

The U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), Western Region Office, has prepared an environmental assessment (EA), to analyze environmental impacts of approving a federal mining plan modification for future underground mining operations into the Flat Canyon Federal Coal Lease Tract UTU-77114 as part of Canyon Fuel Company's Skyline Mine. As required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the EA discloses the potential for direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts. Resources analyzed in the EA include topography and geology, air quality and climate, social and economic, hydrology, soils, and greater sage-grouse.

Skyline Mine is located in Carbon and Emery counties, approximately five miles southwest of Scofield, Utah, about 18 miles west of Helper, Utah. The Flat Canyon Federal Coal Lease Tract UTU-77114 is in Sanpete County, Utah. Private land accessed extends into Emery County, Utah. The EA analyzes both the Flat Canyon Federal Coal Lease Tract UTU-77114 and the private coal. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued the Federal Coal Lease UTU-77114 on July 1, 2015. Federal Coal Leases are administered by the BLM with consent from the U.S. Forest Service. Once a coal mining operator obtains the rights of a federal coal lease, two separate approvals are needed for a coal mine operator to conduct mining operations on federal coal leases: 1) an approved Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) of 1977 permit approved by the regulatory authority, in this case the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGGM), and 2) an approved mining plan, or modification of a previously approved mining plan, by the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management (ASLM). The SMCRA mine permit approval by DOGGM provides the basis for the ASLM's decision on the mining plan or mining plan modification. The SMCRA permit for the Skyline Mine (C/007/0005) was issued, by DOGGM, in 1981. Canyon Fuel Company submitted Amendment Task ID #5017 to DOGGM for approval on September 25, 2015. Subsequently, OSMRE determined that the addition to the Skyline Mine requires a mining plan modification with ASLM approval for mining to occur on that federal coal lease.

OSMRE is responsible for reviewing plans to conduct coal mining and reclamation operations on lands containing leased federal coal. Pursuant to 30 CFR 746, OSMRE must prepare and submit to the ASLM a decision document recommending approval, conditional approval or disapproval of the proposed mining plan modification. Approval of a mining plan modification would authorize underground mining to produce up to 8 million tons per year of coal (the limit established by the air permit Approval Order issued by the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality). Skyline Mine anticipates production between 3 and 4.5 million tons annually. The Flat Canyon Federal Coal Lease Tract UTU-77114 contains approximately 2,692 acres of federal mineral estate and contains a probable maximum of about 42 million tons of recoverable coal and provides access to 1,100 acres of private coal reserves (approximately 5 million tons of coal). If the mining plan modification is approved, mining operations would extend approximately 9 to 12 years.

OSMRE is soliciting public comments on the EA and the unsigned Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The EA and unsigned FONSI are available for review as of June 16, 2016. All comments must be received or postmarked by July 18, 2016, to be considered. Documents are available for review online <http://www.wrcc.osmre.gov/initiatives/skylineMine.shtm>.

Printed versions of the EA and unsigned FONSI are also available for review at the following locations:

Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation

1999 Broadway, Suite 3320

Denver, CO 80202

Between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM Monday through Friday (Closed Saturday and Sunday)

Manti-La Sal National Forest Supervisor's Office

599 West Price River Road

Price, UT 84501

Between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM Monday through Friday (Closed Saturday and Sunday)

Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, Public Information Center

1594 W. North Temple

Salt Lake City, UT 84116

Between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM Monday through Friday (Closed Saturday and Sunday)

Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Office

440 West 200 South, Suite 500

Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

Between the hours of 7:45 AM and 4:30 PM Monday through Friday (Closed Saturday and Sunday).

Park City Library

159 East Main St

Price, UT 84101

Between the hours of 8:00 AM and 7:00 PM Monday through Friday, Saturday 9:00 AM to Noon (Closed Sunday)

You are invited to direct these comments by mail:

ATTN: OSMRE, Skyline Mine EA

C/O: Nicole Caveny

OSMRE WR

1999 Broadway, Suite 3320

Denver, CO 80202

Comments may be emailed to OSM-nepa-ut@OSMRE.gov, with the subject line: ATTN: OSMRE, Skyline Mine EA.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – will be publicly available. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations or businesses and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be available for public review to the extent consistent with applicable law.

Additional information regarding this Project may be obtained from Nicole Caveny at (303) 293-5078 or ncaveny@osmre.gov.

Sincerely,



Marcelo Calle, Manager
Field Operations Branch