
File Code: 1950; 2700; 2820

Date: June 16, 2020

Dear Interested Party:

The Manti-La Sal National Forest proposes to approve the construction of a section of electrical transmission line for Canyon Fuel Company, LLC. located between the Skyline Mine facility in Eccles Canyon and the Swens Canyon Ventilation facility in Swens Canyon on the Price Ranger District.

The Forest Service (FS) is proposing to authorize Canyon Fuel Company to construct an approximately 2700 ft long section of a 2.6 mile long 46kV transmission line from the Skyline Mine facility located in Eccles Canyon at S1/2, SE1/4, Section 13 T, 13S, R6E to the Swens Canyon Ventilation facility at SW1/4, SW1/4, Section 7, T13S, R6E. All but 2700 ft of the proposed transmission line lies on existing mine permits and was approved in 2016 by the Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining with concurrence from the U.S. Forest Service. Construction of this section of transmission line would be authorized under a special use permit. Authorized work would include placement of approximately 60-foot tall wooden poles with 600 foot spacing with guy wires and anchors where necessary. Where blading is necessary to place poles standard reclamation of the area will take place. Authorized work also includes clearing timber and brush to a safe distance from the transmission line. This transmission line would provide power to sections of the mine where future mining will take place and allow maximum economic recovery of existing coal leases.

See attached documents or go to our website:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/mantilasal/landmanagement/projects> and click on Eccles to Swens Transmission Corridor Special Use Permit for detailed information. It is anticipated that authorization would occur through Categorical Exclusion under **36 CFR 220.6(e)(3) Approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of NFS lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land.**

The Responsible Official for this analysis and decision is the Forest Supervisor, Manti-La Sal National Forest. The Responsible Official will decide whether to proceed with this action as described, or to do nothing at this time.

You are invited to submit comments to the Responsible Official, Ryan Nehl, Forest Supervisor, Manti-La Sal National Forest, 599 W Price River Dr, Price UT, 84501. For the duration of the Covid-19 situation, hand delivery of comments will not be accepted. Electronic comments must be submitted in rich text format (.rtf) or Word (.doc or .docx) to comments-intermtn-mantilasal@usda.gov. **Due to the need to expedite a decision regarding this proposal, written,**



facsimile, hand-delivered, and electronic comments would be most useful if received by July 5, 2020. Please state Eccles to Swens Transmission Corridor Special Use Permit in the subject line when providing electronic comments, or on the envelope when replying by mail.

Considering legislation approved in 2014 (Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 and the Agricultural Act of 2014), the Forest Service no longer offers notice, comment and appeal opportunities for categorically excluded projects pursuant to 36 CFR Part 215, effective March 5, 2014. The Forest Service continues to offer public involvement opportunities for categorically excluded projects as provided for in the agency's NEPA Procedures, see 36 CFR 220.4(d) (SOPA) and 36 CFR 220.4(e) and 220.6(c) (scoping). We will consider all comments that we receive, including those submitted anonymously, but only those who provide contact information will be notified of the decision. Please note that all comments received, including the 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.

Sincerely,

X Ryan Nehl

Signed by: Department of Agriculture

RYAN NEHL
Forest Supervisor



PROPOSED ACTION:

Skyline mine proposes to install an electrical transmission line from the Skyline Mine Facility in Eccles Canyon to the vent shaft at the mouth of Swens Canyon. This special uses permit encompasses 2700 ft x 50 ft (3.1 acres) of the 2.6 mile transmission corridor that is currently approved for construction.

Details of the project include installation of a 46kV transmission line with approximately 60 ft wooden poles with approximately 600 ft spacing between each wooden single pole. Both pole height and spacing will vary depending on terrain. Guy wires and anchors will also be needed at pole locations where the transmission line turns an angle. Approximately five poles are projected to be placed in the special uses permit (SUP) area. No to minimal blading should be necessary to allow equipment to access the pole placements, but in the event that blading a trail to a specific pole location is necessary topsoil will be salvaged, replaced, roughened, and reseeded after construction. Upon closure of the mine the transmission line corridor will be reclaimed to the pre-mining land use per UDOGMM and USFS regulations

DESIGN FEATURES

Cultural Resources

- Discovery of previously unknown sites, surface or subsurface, may occur during project implementation. If discovered, project activity in the vicinity of the cultural resource would cease and a USFS representative notified immediately. All cultural resources shall be protected in accordance with Federal Laws.
- All persons associated with this project will be informed that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing Euro-American and Native American historic and prehistoric archaeology sites, or for collecting artifacts of any kind, including historic items and/or arrowheads and pottery fragments from Federal lands.

Noxious & Invasive Weeds

- Clean all equipment with a power wash before entry onto public land to remove noxious weed seed. All equipment must be inspected by the COR or designated project inspector before entry onto public lands.
- Noxious weed free certification will be required for all straw or hay bales used for mulch, and for any seed mixes used for the project.
- Any seeding for erosion control and restoration will use an approved native seed and pollinator friendly mix specified for this project.
- Control noxious weeds as appropriate under existing decisions and agreements.
- Range Management personnel will review the area prior to operations to identify any weed pockets that should be treated or avoided during implementation. Construction/disturbance areas will be monitored for a minimum of three years following construction. Existing or new weed populations will be treated in accordance with existing noxious weed management decisions.

Watershed/Soils

- A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be developed, approved and implemented to reduce impacts to macroinvertebrates.
- A native grass/forb seed mix will be applied to disturbed soils within the construction areas.
- Add mulch, fertilizer and other soil amendments as necessary to reduce soil erosion and increase vegetation growth.
- Prohibit mechanical operation on wet soils exceeding the plastic limit or when ruts exceed 4 inches depth for 10 feet or more.
- Vehicle traffic and equipment operation will be restricted during wet periods to prevent rutting in excess of one inch on gravel roads and 2 inches on native surface roads.

Wildlife



Swens Canyon Transmission Line

- Raptor safe power pole and line design and/or perch deterrents will be incorporated to minimize impact to raptors.

Purpose & Need:

PURPOSE

To provide additional power to Canyon Fuel Company facilities on federally managed coal leases.

NEED

The project is needed to address future power needs for continued mining. Supplying power through the mine is not practical due to the voltage-drop associated with running an insulated cable for a significant distance. Running power overhead eliminates the voltage-drop problem.

Forest Plan:

The following goals, desired conditions, and management direction (among others) apply to this proposed action (Manti-La Sal National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan [1986 as amended]):

GOALS

Provide appropriate opportunities for and manage activities related to locating, leasing, exploration, development, and production of mineral and energy resources.

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION

New mines would be expected to develop on existing as well as new leases and coal production would increase.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

Administer sites with producing facilities and known reserves with consideration of ongoing and potential mineral activities.

FOREST PLAN MANAGEMENT UNIT DIRECTION

LOCATION

The Manti-La Sal National Forest, proposes to approve the following electrical transmission line for Canyon Fuel Company, LLC. located between S1/2, SE1/4, Section 13 T, 13S, R6E in Eccles Canyon and SW1/4, SW1/4, Section 7, T13S, R6E in Swens Canyon on the Price Ranger District

Map(s)

Insert vicinity map and/or other types of maps that provide context for the proposal. If there is more than one map, insert additional pages as needed ahead of the Proposal Screening section. If there are numerous maps, consider including only a few here that are most pertinent to the proposal screening considerations and provide a link to the remaining maps (project file, SharePoint, T: etc.).

Additional maps are available in the application document on the Pinyon folder.



Swens Canyon Transmission Line



Legend

- Power Pole
- Special Use Area
- Power Pole Corridor
- Underground Power

Skyline Mine
Swens Canyon Powerline
Special Use Permit Area

CF Canyon Fuel Company, LLC
Skyline Mines

FOR 25 SQUARE FEET OF POWER	DATE: 4/20/20	CK BY: GJedeck	REVISION:
SHEET NO. 100-100-200	SCALE: 1"=1000'	DR BY: TEart	
DWG. NO.:			



Swens Canyon Transmission Line