



## United States Department of the Interior



### OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING

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

December 10, 2019

Steve Christensen  
Coal Program Manager  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

**Re: Final Phase III Bond Release Application #6001; Gordon Creek 2, 7 & 8 Mines; C/007/0016**

Dear Mr. Christensen,

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) has reviewed the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining's (DOGM) December 6, 2019 Decision Document for Canyon Fuel Company, LLC's (CFC) bond release application, Task #6001. OSMRE hereby concurs with the Decision in accordance with 30 CFR § 740.15 (d)(3) and 30 CFR § 944.30, Article IX, Section B of the State-Federal Cooperative Agreement.

The surface and mineral ownership associated with this bond release is private and federal. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was notified of the Task #6001 field inspection by letter dated October 17, 2019; BLM elected to conduct its own inspection on November 6, 2019. OSMRE participated in the joint inspection which was held on October 31, 2019. By letter dated November 7, 2019 BLM concurred with the Task #6001 Decision. We interpret this to mean that CFC is in compliance with all applicable BLM mineral lease stipulations.

DOGM's Decision Document notes CFC's compliance with the approved Utah program at R645-301-880 *et seq* and recommends final Phase III bond release on 34.15 acres at the Gordon Creek 2, 7 & 8 Mines. DOGM currently holds a \$171,000 performance bond which covers the entire minesite. Under Task #6001, DOGM proposes to release the entire \$171,000 from reclamation liability. OSMRE agrees with the Task #6001 Decision and recommends final Phase III bond release at the Gordon Creek 2, 7 & 8 Mines.

Please direct any questions to Tom Medlin, Environmental Protection Specialist, at (303) 293-5083.

Sincerely,

Howard E. Strand, Manager  
Denver Field Branch

c: Canyon Fuel Company, LLC