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June 26, 1997

To: File

Thru: Joseph Helfrich, Permit Supervisor 

From: David Darby, Hydrologist 

Re: Coal Exploration, Comments to Bureau of Land Management, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC., EXP/007/018-97A, File #2, Carbon County, Utah

SUMMARY

Soldier Canyon Mine of Canyon Fuel Company submitted a Coal Exploration Plan on May 22, 1996. The plan proposes to conduct drilling activities on the Akali Lease Tract, UTU-69635. The tract contains federal coal leases. Four exploration holes are planned.

Technical Analysis:

R645 301-527.230 Maintenance Plan

Analysis:

The applicant indicates that approximately 8,500 feet new roads will be constructed to access drill sites.

Findings:

The applicant has not identified how sediment will be controlled on developed and upgraded roads. Runoff controls should be identified where gradients on roads could cause runoff and erosion. Typical control could be water bars with siltation ponds, berms, straw bales and silt fences. Where gradients on roads could cause runoff and erosion

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R645-202-235, R645-301-731.211 Water Monitoring

Analysis:

The applicant explains that the main objective of the drilling program is designed to determine the presents and extent of minable coal reserves, and monitoring will be established if data indicate sufficient coal reserves are contacted.

Finding:

Groundwater resources may be difficult to identify while drilling, especially if drilling fluids are used. If possible the geologist or driller should identify and record the level where large volumes of water are contacted or if voids cause a loss of circulation.

Recommendation

R645-202-235

The applicant should submit a typical drawing of a drill site showing disturbed area, diversions and sediment control structures.

R645-201-325

The applicant should record and submit any groundwater inflows or losses that are noticeable when drilling.

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