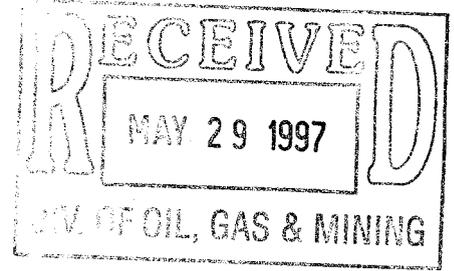


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Michael O. Leavitt
Governor
Ted Stewart
Executive Director
James W. Carter
Division Director

State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
P.O. Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801
(801) 538-5340
(801) 359-3940 (Fax)



May 27, 1997

To: File

Thru: Joe Helfrich, Permit Supervisor, Compliance *JH*

From: Peter Hess, Reclamation Specialist III *PH*

RE: Exploration Plan, Canyon Fuel Company, Soldier Canyon Mine, ACT/007/018-97A,
Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

SUMMARY:

Canyon Fuel Company (CFC), Soldier Canyon Mine is proposing to permit four exploratory drill holes in the alkali lease area UTU-69635 to obtain additional coal data for the purpose of determining a mine design for this area. The drill site for hole 11-1-97 will be drilled on an existing jeep trail; it will be necessary to construct approximately 7,100 feet of new road to access drill sites 11-2-97 and 11-3-97. Drill hole 14-1-97 will require a new roadway construction length of 1400 feet. Assuming a ten foot roadway width, this constitutes less than two acres of new disturbance. The addition of the four drill pad areas will push the acreage over the 2 acre limit; but due to budget limitations this year, CFC only plans to drill two of the four holes. In my opinion, what CFC has submitted appears to be adequate. The only question I have is, do we want to approve the permitting of four holes when the permittee only intends to drill two at this time ?

RECOMMENDATION:

At this time, I would recommend that the permittee determine which two of the four holes will benefit them the most, and proceed with the permitting process in conjunction with the Bureau of Land Management. If the other two holes are necessary, require the permittee to make an additional application as the need arises.

sd
cc: Don Stephens, USBLM, Price River Resource Area

