



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING

Reclamation and Enforcement

P.O. Box 46667

Denver, Colorado 80201-6667

IN REPLY REFER TO:

UT-0023

February 9, 2004

Utah Division of Oil, Gas, & Mining
Coal Regulatory Program
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
P.O. Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

Incoring
C/007/0018

RE: Canyon Fuel Company, LLC "Soldier Canyon" Mine - Application for a Permit Revision, Chapter 5 Revisions

Dear Sir or Madam:

This in response to the Utah Division of Oil, Gas, & Mining's (UT-DOGM) February 5, 2004, request for a decision, under 30 CFR 944.30, whether the above subject permit revision constitutes a mining plan modification.

Mining plan approvals by the Secretary of the Interior are required under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, 30 U.S.C. 181, *et seq.* before coal mining can occur on Federal lands. This letter serves to document OSM's determination whether or not a mining plan approval from the Secretary is required for the above permitting action.

OSM's review of the Application for a Permit Revision, Chapter 5 Revisions, has determined that it removes references to a refuse disposal site and a preparation plant, as well as revising the reclamation bond cost estimate for these facilities that were not constructed at the Soldier Canyon mine, Utah State permit C/007/018.

Based on a review of the activities associated with the permit revision, OSM has determined that the proposal does not meet the requirements of 30 CFR 746.11(a) and 746.18(d). Therefore, the proposed permit revision does not constitute a mining plan action requiring Secretarial approval.

OSM's decision was based solely upon the Federal regulations under 30 CFR PART 746 and not the technical aspects of the revision application itself. Consequently, OSM's decision does not relieve UT-DOGM from coordinating the review and approval of the Application for a Permit Revision, Chapter 5 Revisions with other Federal agencies for compliance with other Federal regulations.

OSM also electronically transmitted the February 5, 2004 request to the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service for their review and comment.

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DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

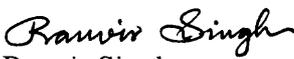
In an electronic transmittal dated February 6, 2004, the U.S. Forest Service stated it had no comments regarding the Chapter 5 revisions.

In an electronic transmittal dated February 9, 2004, the Bureau of Land Management stated that it did not believe that the Chapter 5 revisions constituted a Mining Plan Modification.

Please notify the applicant of our decision on this matter.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter or approval, please contact Carl R. Johnston, Utah Federal Lands coordinator, at (303) 844-1400, extension 1500.

Sincerely,


Ranvir Singh
Manager, Northwest Branch

cc: Denver Field Division