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December 1, 1998

TO: File
THRU: Joe Helfrich, Permit Supervisor *JH*
FROM: James D. Smith, Reclamation Specialist *JDS*
RE: Waste Rock Disposal, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC, Banning Loadout, ACT/007/034-98A, File #2, Carbon County, Utah.

SUMMARY

UDOGM received a proposed amendment to the Banning Loadout MRP on August 25, 1998. The amendment package consists of "Appendix 5-3 - Temporary waste rock storage area - Dugout Canyon Mine waste rock", a new table of contents, and a new Exhibit 5-2. Several deficiencies were identified in a TA dated September 17, 1998. Canyon Fuel Company's reply to those deficiencies was received November 5, 1998. This TA is of that November submittal only and addresses only those sections to which Canyon Fuel Company has made additions or changes in response to the earlier TA.

The proposed waste-rock storage will be used only until a permanent waste-rock disposal area for the Dugout Canyon Mine can be permitted and built, at which time the waste rock will be moved to the permanent disposal area. The pile will be in place no more than one year.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 783.24, 783.25; R645-301-323, -301-411, -301-521, -301-622, -301-722, -301-731.

Analysis:

Existing Surface Configuration Maps.

Contour Maps.

The site is nearly flat, with a very shallow gradient to the west. However, the radial-stacker coal pile has blocked westward drainage and created a low spot that accumulates rainwater and snowmelt; this low spot is the area where the waste-rock storage pile is planned. The operator commits to endeavor to

keep the waste rock storage area free of depressions, and to regrade the area to eliminate sites that retain water if such areas are noted after precipitation events (Appendix 5-3, p. 4). Because this area is and will be subject to periodic regrading as part of the loadout operations, Exhibit 5-2 adequately represents the existing land surface configuration.

Findings:

Maps, plans, and cross sections of resource information are considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section.

OPERATION PLAN

HYDROLOGIC INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 773.17, 774.13, 784.14, 784.16, 784.29, ~~817.41, 817.42, 817.43, 817.45, 817.49, 817.56, 817.57~~; R645-300-140, -300-141, -300-142, -300-143, -300-144, -300-145, -300-146, -300-147, -300-147, -300-148, -301-512, -301-514, -301-521, -301-531, -301-532, -301-533, -301-536, -301-542, -301-720, -301-731, -301-732, -301-733, -301-742, -301-743, -301-750, -301-761, -301-774

Analysis:

Impoundments.

Exhibit 5-2 indicates that the waste-rock storage pile is to be located in an area where rainwater and snowmelt ponds because the radial-stacker coal pile blocks natural westward drainage. Saturation of the waste by this water could result in spontaneous combustion if the coal content in the waste were high enough. The operator commits to endeavor to keep the waste rock storage area free of depressions, and to regrade the area to eliminate sites that retain water if such areas are noted after precipitation events (Appendix 5-3, p. 4).

The permittee states that the pile will be inspected periodically after construction for stability and hazardous conditions. Any such conditions will be corrected as soon as possible (Appendix 5-3, p. 3).

If coal mine waste fires occur, they will be reported immediately to MSHA and UDOGM and immediate remedial action will be taken to protect public health, safety, and the environment. A long-term plan will be formulated following initial remedial efforts. Prevention and suppression will be used to minimize the potential for coal mine waste fires. The waste material is to be stored at the Banning loadout for no more than a year (Appendix 5-3, pp. 3-4).

Findings:

Hydrologic operations information in the operation plan is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section.

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