

## U. S. Department of Labor

Mine Safety and Health Administration  
 P.O. Box 25367  
 Denver, Colorado 80225-0367



DEC 11

Coal Mine Safety and Health  
 District 9

Reid W. Olsen  
 General Manager  
 Canyon Fuel Company, LLC  
 P. O. Box 1029  
 Wellington, UT 84542

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*ACT/007/039*  
*#2*

RE: Dugout Canyon Mine  
 I.D. No. 42-01890  
 Blasting Within 500 Feet of Active  
 Mine Openings

Dear Mr. Olsen:

This letter is to acknowledge that this office did receive, on November 16, 1998, a copy of the Surface Blasting Plan that you filed with the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining(DOGM).

In your letter, dated November 11, 1998, to DOGM, you stated that you would obtain approval from MSHA prior to blasting due the blast being approximately 300 feet from a mine portal. The Mine Safety and Health Administration(MSHA) does not grant approvals for blasting within 500 feet of a mine portal. Through a Memorandum of Understanding, MSHA concurs with approvals granted by the Office of Surface Mining(OSM) or the primacy state. The request for concurrence is forwarded to MSHA by OSM or the primacy state agency. OSM or the primacy state agency then issues the approval for surface blasting within 500 feet of a mine portal.

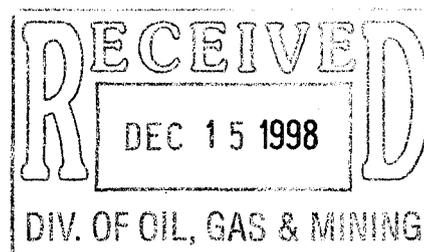
On June 10, 1998, MSHA did issue approval of a permit for blasting to extend three portal entries for the Dugout Canyon Mine. The duration of the permit was for one year or the completion of the project, whichever came first. That permit stated that all persons would be withdrawn to the surface and everyone would wait 15 minutes for noxious gases to clear before returning underground.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Billy Owens at 303-231-5462 extension 145 or 303-231-5458.

Sincerely,

*John A. Kuzar*

John A. Kuzar  
 District Manager



bcc: Price #2 FO (Copy surname letter and copy company letter)  
Joe Helfrich

Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

Steve Demczak

Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
College of Eastern Utah  
451 East 400 North  
Price, Utah 84501

RC MHF (Copy surname letter and company letter)

RC Reading (Copy surname letter **Only**)

D9 Chron 11/16/98 #10 (Copy surname letter **Only**)

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