



State of Utah  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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May 18, 1998

TO: File

THRU: Joe Helfrich, Permit Supervisor *JH*

FROM: James D. Smith, Reclamation Specialist *JDS*

RE: Notice of Intention to Conduct Minor Coal Exploration, Dugout Canyon Area, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC, ACT/007/039, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah.

## SUMMARY

Canyon Fuel Company, LLC (Canyon Fuel Company) proposes to drill 6 exploratory holes to evaluate coal quality and reserves within the Blackhawk Formation. The holes will be on state and private land, and access will be across state, private, and federal lands. CANYON FUEL COMPANY estimates that less than 250 tons of coal will be removed during the drilling.

Information in the proposal concerning geology and hydrology is considered adequate to meet the requirements for Coal Exploration under the Utah Coal Mining Rules.

## TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

### **NOTICES OF INTENTION TO CONDUCT MINOR COAL EXPLORATION**

Regulatory Reference: R645-201-200.

The address and telephone number of Canyon Fuel Company's designated representatives, Mark W. Scanlon, Senior Geologist, and Dave Spillman, Manager of Technical Services, are in Section R645-201-222. They will be present at and responsible for conducting the exploration operations. If a contractor is hired to serve as the applicant's representative, UDOGM and other agencies will be provided the necessary information.

The narrative in Section R645-201-223, including Table 1, and Map 1 describe the exploration area and indicate where exploration will occur. Separate sections discuss topography, geology, soils, surface water resources, ground-water resources, vegetation, wildlife, threatened and endangered species, land use, and cultural resources. It is not anticipated that any significant aquifers will be encountered, nor that the exploration holes will be developed and maintained as water monitoring wells.

The exploration period will be from May to September, with the majority of work expected to be from June to August. This does not include reclamation, which may extend beyond October 1. Work will be scheduled to minimize conflicts with hunting seasons.

Coal exploration methods are described in Section R645-301-225. These include pre-drilling activities such as on-site inspections of drill sites and access routes. Access routes are described in detail and are shown on Map 1. Road construction and maintenance, drill site construction, methods and equipment for drilling, size and depth of the holes, amount of coal to be removed, proposed drill hole plugging methods, the reclamation plan, and the estimated timing for drilling related activities are described.

## **PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

Regulatory Reference: R645-202-200.

No diversions of overland flows and ephemeral, perennial, or intermittent streams are mentioned, and after reviewing the exploration plan none are anticipated.

Coal exploration will be conducted in a manner which minimizes disturbance of the prevailing hydrologic balance. Erosion control structures and sediment control devices will be used to prevent runoff erosion and control sediment loss (Section R645-201-225). No sedimentation ponds are planned.

Mud pits will be the only impoundments, and their design has been certified by a licensed professional engineer. They do not meet the criteria to be considered MSHA impoundments and will not exist long enough to be subject to quarterly or annual inspections. The impoundments will be too small to pose a hazard to the public. The mud pits will have no effect on the hydrologic balance or water rights. Discharge from the mud pits is not anticipated due to their planned use, ephemeral nature, and small size.

Any acid- or toxic-forming materials will be in the mud pits and will be buried during site reclamation. UDOGM does not anticipate any such materials from the borings.

## **RECLAMATION STANDARDS**

Regulatory Reference: R645-202-240.

Exploration boreholes created during exploration will be sealed with the method described in CFR 43 II 3483.1(a).

No facilities and equipment will be left on the sites.

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## **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION**

Regulatory Reference: R645-203.

The exploration application and subsequent supporting information will be made available for public inspection and copying at the Division.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Regulatory Reference: R645-203.200.

CANYON FUEL COMPANY understands that upon written request to UDOGM, information related to coal exploration activities will be kept and not disclosed or made available to the for public inspection.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The propose exploration plan should be approved.