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

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May 11, 1998

TO: File

THRU: Joe Helfrich, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Priscilla Burton, Reclamation Soils Specialist

RE: Notice of Intention to Conduct Minor Coal Exploration, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC, Dugout Canyon Mine, ACT/007/039-98A, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

**SUMMARY:**

Coal Exploration plans were received on April 29, 1998, in accordance with the requirements of the State of Utah Coal Mining Regulations, R645-200 through R645-203.

Information found in the proposal is not considered adequate to meet the requirements of R645-202-231, R645-202-233, R645-202-236, and R645-202-242, and R645-202-242.100.

The permittee should make the requisite changes to the proposal as necessary and resubmit the proposal to meet the requirements of the Division Order.

**TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:**

**OPERATION PLAN**

**OPERATIONAL STANDARDS**

Regulatory Reference: R645-202-231 and R645-200-230

**Analysis:**

**Operational Standards**

The permittee has plans to conduct Cultural Resource surveys, Threatened and Endangered Species surveys and Raptor surveys (pages 5 and 6 of the submittal). These surveys have not yet been completed.

**Findings:**

The responsibility of the Division is to coordinate reviews with other government agencies.

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The submittal does not have the necessary information required for consideration by other government agencies. Prior to approval, the permittee must provide the following in accordance with:

**R645-202-231**, a cultural resource survey, raptor survey and threatened and endangered species survey must be provided for government agency review.

## **TOPSOIL**

Regulatory Reference: R645-202-233

### **Analysis:**

#### **Topsoil**

Soils range from shallow to deep according to location and slope. The proposal indicates that the deepest soils will be found on the mesa tops at drill sites E and F. In contradiction with the proposal, the SCS soils map indicates that soils in the locations of the drill holes A, B, C and D may be in soils #21 or Croyden loam. The soils in the location of drill holes E and F on the mesa tops may fall in the Midfork family-Commodore complex. Croyden family soils are approximately 16 inches deep in the topsoil layer. Midfork family - Commodore complex soils are considerably shallower.

### **Findings:**

Information provided in the proposal is considered too general to meet the requirements of this section. Prior to approval, the permittee must provide the following in accordance with:

**R645-202-233**, a more detailed report of the drill site slopes and soil conditions is necessary to ensure that adequate topsoil is salvaged and replaced.

## **ACID OR TOXIC FORMING MATERIALS**

Regulatory Reference: R645-202-236

### **Analysis:**

#### **Acid or toxic forming materials**

As described on page 10 of the proposal, mud pits will be dug at each site to contain drill cuttings and fluids. Pits will be at least four feet deep. To ensure adequate burial of potentially acid/toxic materials the pits should be deeper than four feet so that placement of the waste is below four feet.

**Findings:**

Information provided in the proposed amendment is not considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section. Prior to approval, in accordance with:

**R645-202-236**, the proposal must allow for burial of potentially acid/toxic material below four feet of cover.

## **RECLAMATION PLAN**

### **Reclamation Standards**

Regulatory Reference: R645-202-242

**Analysis:**

#### **Revegetation**

Soil redistribution will be conducted after drilling at each site. However, seeding may be delayed until fall (page 14). Straw may be utilized at a rate of 2000 lbs/acre (page 13). The seed mix (page 13) includes a non-native legume (Melilotis officinale, yellow sweet clover). The seed mix may not reflect the native vegetation for each site as described in the SCS soil survey description of Croyden loam and Midfork family-Commodore complex soils.

**Findings:**

Information provided in the proposal is not considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section. Prior to approval, in accordance with:

**R645-202-242**. the proposal must state that seeding and mulching will immediately follow the subsoil and topsoil redistribution at all disturbed sites.

**R645-202-242.100**, the seeding mix included in the proposal should not include Melilotus officinale.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

This proposal is not recommended for approval at this time.