

0017



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

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor
Kathleen Clarke
Executive Director
Lowell P. Braxton
Division Director

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
PO Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801
801-538-5340
801-359-3940 (Fax)
801-538-7223 (TDD)

May 14, 1999

TO: File

THRU: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor *DH*

THRU: Joe Helfrich, Permit Supervisor *JH*

FROM: Wayne H. Western, Senior Reclamation Specialist *WHW*

RE: Begin Longwall Mine Operations, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC, Dugout Canyon Mine, ACT/007/039-99A, File #2, Carbon County, Utah

SUMMARY:

On February 3, 1999, the Division received Amendment 99A from the Dugout Mine. The amendment was forwarded to the Price Field Office on February 9, 1999. The Permittee proposes changing the MRP to include the longwall mining.

Technical Analysis:

OPERATION PLAN

MINING OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-231, -301-523, -301-526, -301-528.

Analysis:

Type and Method of Mining Operations

The Permittee met the minimum requirements of R645-301-523 by providing the Division with information and maps about the proposed mine plan. The Permittee proposes using longwall mining to extract most of the coal. Room-and-pillar mining will be used for development work, in areas that are not suitable for longwall methods and in areas that must be protected from subsidence.

Findings:

The Permittee met the minimum requirements of this section.

SUBSIDENCE CONTROL PLAN

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-521, -301-525, -301-724.

Analysis:

Renewable resources survey.

Renewable resources and structures exist within the proposed subsidence area.

Subsidence control plan.

The Permittee's subsidence control plan outlines how structures and renewable resources will be protected as follows:

1. The Permittee proposes to use a combination of longwall and continuous miners to extract the coal. The continuous miners will be used to develop the mains, submains, and panel entries. Room and pillar mining will be used in areas of first mining only to protect surface structures and in areas not suitable for longwall mining.

Longwall mining will be used to extract large blocks of coal where the panels are more than 2,500 feet in length and where a suitable longwall panel can be laid out. Coal thickness of up to 14 feet will be mined in the mine using longwall methods. In areas where coal is thicker than the height capacity of the mining equipment, the unmined coal will be left in the floor.

The timing and sequence of the mining operations is shown on Plate 5-7.

2. Plate 5-7 shows the areas where planned subsidence could occur. The plate shows that all planned subsidence should occur within the permit boundaries and that no surface structures will be damaged.
3. The descriptions of the physical conditions, such as depth of cover, seam thickness, lithology that is in the approved MRP is considered adequate for the Division to determine the effects of subsidence if longwall mining is used.
4. The location or anticipated location of each monitoring point is shown on Plate 5-7.

Longwall Mine Operations
ACT/007/039-99A
May 14, 1999
Page 3

5. Plate 5-7 show that all areas with structures and streams are outside the subsidence zone. The area within the subsidence zone does not have any structures or resources that need special subsidence protection.
6. The Permittee states that some damage to dirt roads in the subsidence area may occur. The only other damage could be from subsidence cracks. Since the surface area is remote and owned by the Permittee the Division considers any surface damage will be minor.
7. The Permittee will mitigate all subsidence damage.

Performance standards for subsidence control.

The Permittee has committed to meet all subsidence performance standards.

Findings:

The Permittee met the minimum requirements of this section.

Recommendations:

The Division should approve this amendment.