



State of Utah

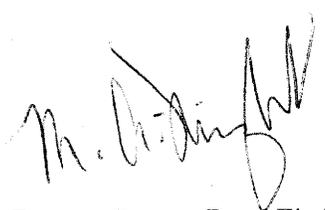
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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December 17, 1999

To: File

FROM: Mary Ann Wright, Associate Director, Mining 

RE: Supplemental Information and Analysis for the Dugout Canyon Road Findings, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC., Dugout Canyon Mine, ACT/007/039, Folder #3, Carbon County, Utah

This analysis and additional information supplements the Analysis and Findings Document for the Dugout Canyon Road dated January 28, 1998 and should be appended to that document as additional support material.

Summary:

The January 28, 1998 Analysis and Findings determined that the Dugout Canyon road up to the mine disturbed area boundary would be exempt from regulation according to the State of Utah Coal Mining Rules, R645, et seq. And the UDOGM July 3, 1995 policy on roads. Since that time additional information has been collected in support of the original finding. This information is herein analyzed and will be made part of the Findings record for the Dugout Canyon Road.

Analysis:

According to the Division's July 3, 1995 permitting policy on roads, one of the primary findings which has to be made is that, "Impacts from mining on the road are not significant under Utah's definitions for "affected area" and "surface coal mining operations". While the Division made this finding in January of 1998, the documentation supporting the finding was sparse. Therefore, it was determined that a vehicle survey should be conducted on the Dugout Canyon Road in order to identify the types of vehicles and the use of the road and whether or not any surface coal mining operation was being conducted on the public portion of the Dugout Canyon Road.

The survey was performed by Steve Demczak, Senior Reclamation Specialist, during June and July of 1999. The survey consisted of nine separate observations ranging from 34 minutes to 1 hour in duration. The observations took place on the Dugout Canyon Road approximately 0.6 miles from the Soldier Canyon Road turnoff and took place on the following dates. June 3, 4, 7, 14, 16, July 1, 10, 11. The time of each survey was varied in order to cover a larger cross section of traffic throughout the day, rather than just surveying at a particular time of day. A copy of the survey is attached to this document.

One of the main elements of the survey was to identify the types of vehicles using the road and to determine whether or not they had a state license. The observed vehicles ranged from cars to coal haul trucks. There were numerous pick-up trucks, vans, gravel haul trucks, an oil and grease truck, and an

explosive truck as well. On one of the days there were no vehicles observed. In every case the vehicle that was observed on the road carried a state license plate. There were no observations made of any mining equipment being used or any surface coal mining operation being conducted on the road. A number of coal trucks were observed going to and from the Dugout mine. In every case these trucks were commercially licensed coal haul trucks and were identified by a Savage Industries logo on the truck. These particular types of trucks operate routinely on many state and county roads throughout Utah and are not peculiar to the Dugout Canyon road.

Another observation made during the survey was that a commercial gravel pit is located just off the Dugout Canyon road approximately 0.7 miles from the Soldier Canyon Road. Large haul trucks were observed going to and from this gravel pit. This observation supports the fact that there are other commercial enterprises besides coal using the road. It is logical that the environmental impacts to the Dugout Canyon Road caused by coal haul trucks would not differ from the environmental impacts of the gravel trucks operating on the road.

Findings:

Finding #4 in the original January 28, 1998 Dugout Canyon Road Analysis is still valid and still applies. The above analysis, only bolsters the original analysis and finding that;

The uses of the Dugout Canyon Road are considerably greater than the narrow, regulated activities of providing access to coal mining and reclamation operations. In addition, the environmental impacts to the Dugout Canyon Road caused by coal truck traffic will not differ from the environmental impacts of other trucks of similar weight operating on this road. The trucks being used for transporting coal are licensed commercial haulers which are legal to operate on public roads of the same classification throughout the state. The mine is not conducting any surface coal mining operation on the public portion of the Dugout Canyon Road that would require any special regulation under SMCRA or the UCRP. Impacts from mining on the road are not significant under Utah's definitions for "affected area" and "surface coal mining operations".