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IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
Reclamation and Enforcement
P.O. Box 46667
Denver, Colorado 80201-6667

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JAN 31 2005
DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

UT-0041

January 24, 2005

Utah Division of Oil, Gas, & Mining
Coal Regulatory Program
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
P.O. Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

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C/007/0039

RE: Canyon Fuel Company, LLC "Dugout Canyon" Mine - Application for a Permit Pace
Canyon Fan Portal

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is in response to the Utah Division of Oil, Gas, & Mining's (UT-DOGM) January 19, 2005, request for a decision, under 30 CFR 944.30, whether the above subject permit revision constitutes a mining plan modification.

Mining plan approvals by the Secretary of the Interior are required under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, 30 U.S.C. 181, *et seq.* before coal mining can occur on Federal lands. This letter serves to document OSM's determination whether or not a mining plan approval from the Secretary is required for the above permitting action.

OSM's review of the Application for a Permit Revision, Pace Canyon Fan Portal, has determined that it proposes to construct a portal, fan shaft, and associated support facilities on approximately 2.5 acres at the Dugout Canyon Mine, Utah State permit C/007/039.

Based on a review of the activities associated with the permit revision, OSM has determined that the proposal does not meet the requirements of 30 CFR 746.18(d). Therefore, the proposed permit revision does not constitute a mining plan action requiring Secretarial approval.

OSM's decision was based solely upon the Federal regulations under 30 CFR PART 746 and not the technical aspects of the revision application itself. Consequently, OSM's decision does not relieve UT-DOGM from coordinating the review and approval of the Application for a Permit Revision, Pace Canyon Fan Portal with other Federal agencies for compliance with other Federal regulations.

OSM also electronically transmitted the January 19, 2005 request to the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service for their review and comment.

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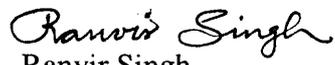
In an electronic transmittal dated January 20, 2005, the U.S. Forest service stated it had no comments or concerns with the Pace Canyon Fan Portal revision.

In an electronic transmittal dated January 24, 2005, the Bureau of Land Management stated that in its opinion the Pace Canyon Fan Portal did not constitute a mining plan action requiring Secretarial approval.

Please notify the applicant of our decision on this matter.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter or approval, please contact Carl R. Johnston, Utah Federal Lands coordinator, at (303) 844-1400, extension 1500.

Sincerely,


Ranvir Singh
Manager, Northwest Branch

cc: BLM - Utah State Office
BLM - Price Field Office
USFS - Manti-La Sal NF
Denver Field Division