
UTAH OGM COAL PROGRAM MEETING NOTES

Date: October 19th, 2006
Time: 01:30 PM
Location: Bureau of Land Management Price, UT office

To: Internal File, Dugout Mine, C/007/0039

From: SKC Steve Christensen, Environmental Scientist II

Attendees: Steve Christensen, The Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
Vicky Miller, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC
Steve Rigby, Steve Falk and Brad Higdon, Bureau of Land Management
David Steed, Tetra Tech, Inc.

Purpose: Scoping meeting to discuss Canyon Fuel Company's plan to expand their current permit area.

MEETING SUMMARY:

On October 19th, 2006, the afore listed attendees met at the Price, UT Bureau of Land Management (BLM) office to discuss Canyon Fuel Company's intention to expand their current permit area. The proposed expansion will be encompassing primarily fee surface land with one relatively smaller area of S.I.T.L.A. There was some question raised as to the ownership of the coal.

According to Vicky Miller, spring and seep inventories of the proposed area were performed in 1995 and 1998. No additional surface disturbance is expected with the proposed lease expansion. It was discussed that the mining will be conducted in an area with approximately 3,000 feet of overburden. The mine plan also calls for a panel-barrier-panel design. In light of a deadly accident in approximately 1988-89, MSHA has required and the BLM has approved a mine plan configuration that allows for a large panel of un-mined coal be left in place for stability/safety reasons. Vicky Miller contends that in light of this mine plan configuration, little to any subsidence related impacts will result from the proposed lease expansion.

A timetable was discussed in terms of when Canyon Fuel would like to be in to the new area. The plan is for the mine to be within the proposed expansion area by mid-summer 2007. The mine's preference is to permit the entire area at once, but if time constraints dictate it, they could feasibly permit a 40 acre section of the area to accommodate their mid-summer 2007 deadline.

Steve Rigby iterated that he would like to see the federal lease-modification work done prior to the Division signing off on it. The issue was discussed in terms of the Division and the BLM doing their work concurrently.

PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS:

Steve Christensen will investigate the criteria for determining what triggers a federal mine plan approval process and begin setting up a Division only meeting with Vicky Miller to discuss the lease expansion.

Brad Higdon is to begin assembling the resource specialists that will work on the N.E.P.A. document and try to arrange an EA team meeting the week of October 30th.

David Steed will begin work on the EA.

Steve Rigby would clarify the ownership of the coal (i.e. Fee or Federal).