



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

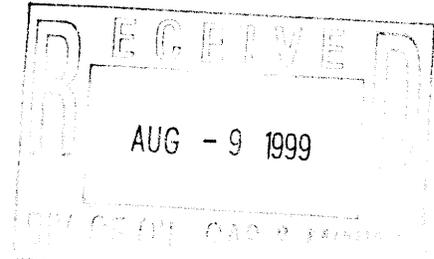
Manti- La Sal
National Forest

Supervisor's Office
599 West Price River Drive
Price UT 84501
Phone # (435) 637-2817
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File Code: 2820-4

Date: August 5, 1999

Mr. Lowell Braxton
Attention: Darron Haddock
Utah Department of Natural Resources
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
P. O. Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801



RE: 160 Acre Incidental Boundary Change (ROW), Canyon Fuel Company, LLC., SUFCO Mine, ACT/041/002-IBC99C, Folder #2, Sevier County, Utah

Dear Lowell:

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Copy Aaron & Mike

We have reviewed the proposed underground Right-of-Way (ROW) and corresponding 160-acre Incidental Boundary Change (IBC) proposed by Canyon Fuel Company, LLC. for construction of full-support mine workings (SUFCO Mine) in the Pines Coal Lease Tract area.

We have determined that the proposal is consistent with the findings of the Pines Tract Project Final Environmental Impact Statement and the decisions made by the Forest Supervisor in the January 28, 1999, Record of Decision (ROD). In the ROD, the Forest Supervisor consented to leasing of the proposed Pines Coal Lease Tract as well as underground mining and subsidence consistent with that predicted for the selected alternative (Combination of Alternatives C and D). The impacts potentially associated with the proposal and future dependent actions in the ROW/IBC area are addressed under Alternative D. Permitting of other mine actions within the ROW or adjacent areas would be subject to the appropriate separate permitting actions and Forest Service consent/concurrence.

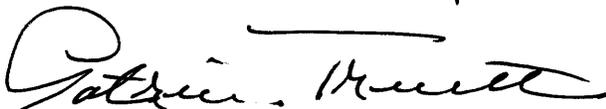
The IBC included a PHC (Probable Hydrologic Consequences) for the entire Pines Coal Lease Tract. It appears to be adequate for the IBC with full-support mining but was not reviewed for sufficiency for permitting of a future mine plan modification to add the Pines Coal Lease Tract to the permit area. Water sources identified in the FEIS as SUFCO 089, Slab Pond (Pines 409), Verdus Pond (Pines 410), springs Pines 100, 101, 102, and GW-21 are located within the immediate vicinity of the ROW/IBC. Slab Pond and Verdus Pond are located at the east edge of the ROW and appear to lie within a transition zone between the proposed mains and a future longwall panel. These ponds must be monitored as surface water sources. The current uses, capacity, and condition of these ponds must be inventoried with photographs. Springs Pines 100-102 and GW-21 are at the head of Link Canyon and lie to the southeast of the ROW. GW-21 and SUFCO 089 are currently being monitored under the mine plan. Monitoring of Pines 100 must be initiated since it flows year-round. At a minimum, these water sources must be monitored and subsidence monitoring must be initiated. Even though no subsidence is predicted from approval of the IBC, the Castlegate Sandstone escarpment must be visually



* monitored for mining-induced cracks and failures with the information recorded in the required monitoring reports. If cracks or failures are observed they should be measured, photographed, and documented. The UDOGM and the Forest Service must be notified as soon as possible after they are discovered. The Grotto or Refugia Rock Shelter and pond identified as SUFCO 089 lies immediately north of the ROW/IBC. It has been identified for protection from the effects of subsidence. This rock shelter must be included in subsidence monitoring and inspected at regular intervals for any signs of inadvertent subsidence and fracturing. Prior to future permitting/consent of subsidence of any of the known archaeological sites, a plan must be submitted for mitigation, subject to approval of the Forest Service and SHPO.

* Based on the findings of consistency with the Pines Tract Project FEIS, the Forest Service is not required to conduct additional environmental analysis for the proposal and the Forest Service has no objection to approval of the IBC by the authorized officer of the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, subject to a commitment by Canyon Fuel to conduct the required monitoring. This decision is limited at this time to the proposed full-support mining operations confined within the 160-acre ROW/IBC area. The Forest Service consented to issuance of the underground ROW by BLM in a separate letter to the Price Field Office on July 22, 1999. A copy of the letter was sent to your office for information.

Sincerely,



for
JANETTE S. KAISER
Forest Supervisor

cc:
D-2/3
Dick Manus, BLM Price Field Office
Ranvir Singh, OSM, 1999 Broadway, Suite 3320, Denver, Colorado 80202-5733