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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING

Reclamation and Enforcement

BROOKS TOWERS

1020 15TH STREET

DENVER, COLORADO 80202

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

File ACT/041/002

Copy to Wayne

3 Mary Ann

Jim

RECEIVED
JAN 20 1981

JAN 22 1981

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

#2

Mr. James W. Smith Jr.
Coordinator of Mined Land Development
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
1588 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84116

Dear Jim:

In response to Southern Utah Fuel Company's (SUFCo) request of August 22, 1980, OSM and Fishlake National Forest reviewed the plan for their hydrologic monitoring program. The monitoring program will consist of two drill holes, ranging in depth between 170 and 190 feet. Comments on this drilling program were received from the Fishlake National Forest on November 14, 1980. Based upon this review and OSM's environmental analysis, we approve the plan with the following stipulations:

1. No new roads are to be constructed. Access is to be by cross country travel.
2. Mud pits should be fenced to prevent livestock and wildlife from being mired in the mud.
3. All trash should be hauled away to a local approved trash dump. No trash is to be buried in the mud pits.
4. Oil, grease or similar products are not to be dumped on the ground.
5. SUFCo will be responsible for fully repairing any damage to roads or structures as a result of their activities.
6. No fires are allowed without first obtaining approval of the Forest Service.
7. Disposal of liquids from the mud pit will be coordinated with the Forest Service.
8. The Forest Service will give final approval that all impacts from the drilling program have been satisfactorily mitigated before allowing SUFCo to abandon the sites.
9. Archeological clearance is required before any soil disturbance is done. The August 22 plan states that the archeological survey was to be conducted in early August, 1980. The report of this survey needs to be submitted for review.

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This approval is only for the wells addressed in the August 22 plan and becomes effective only after SUFCo accepts the stipulations in writing. If you have any questions in regard to this review, contact Jerry Cuzella or John Nadolski (303 837-3773) of my staff.

Sincerely,



DONALD A. CRANE

cc: Mortensen, SUFCO
Taylor, Fishlake National Forest

Proposed Action

The Office of Surface Mining (OSM) is proposing to approve with stipulations a drilling program for Southern Utah Fuel Company's existing Convulsion Canyon No. 1 Mine (Federal Lease SL-062583) located in Sevier County, Utah. Two holes between 170 and 190 feet in depth are proposed, but six would be permitted for flexibility. Holes will be cased and capped for monitoring. Pits will be used to contain all water and mud used in drilling. Sagebrush and other vegetation will be cleared in an area approximately 40 feet by 60 feet for each hole. All drill holes are located along existing roads.

Drilling might have begun on September 1, 1980 and have been completed by September 15, 1980; however, Departmental action on the drilling application has been delayed due to regulatory delay. It is estimated that no more than three days will be required for any one drill site. Drilling would be prohibited between November 1 through April 1.

Alternatives

Disapproval: If the drilling program is not approved, the areas proposed for drilling would not be disturbed. In addition, the company could not fulfill a request from the Office of Surface Mining for more information on the groundwater hydrology of the Convulsion Canyon Mine. With stipulations, the plan complies with all pertinent regulations (30 CFR 776.11) and the drilling would not disturb unique or critical resources; therefore, this alternative is not recommended.

No Action: If the Department takes no action, impacts will not occur at the proposed drilling sites. Groundwater hydrology at the Mine would continue to be unknown and the company would be able to comply with the permanent program regulations.

Finding of No Significant Impact

The attached environmental analysis sheet briefly identifies certain environmental impacts that would occur from the drilling proposal at the Convulsion Canyon Mine. The regional EIS on the Development of Coal in Central Utah analyzed the impacts of this proposed action, including the adverse impacts to hydrology and wildlife. Other adverse impacts would be appropriately mitigated to prevent harm to the environment by environmental-protection measures specified in the plan and stipulations.

Based on the evaluation of impacts summarized in the attached sheet and in the previous regional EIS, we find that no significant impacts to the human environment would result from the proposed activity. Therefore, an EIS is not required, and I am recommending that the Convulsion Canyon exploration plan be approved.

DONALD A. CRANE
Regional Director

Date

Mine Plan: _____
 Applicant: _____
 County: _____
 State: _____
 Prepared by: _____

AFFECTED RESOURCES	EXPLORATION				MINING										DISPOSAL					
	Drilling	Surface Extraction	Transport	Other	Construction Roads	Railroad	Runoff Control	Surface Facilities	Breakouts	Explosions	Mineral Extraction	Geologic Related Hazards	Land Use	Reclamation	Other	Topsoil	Solid Waste	Sanitary Waste	Effluent Discharge	Other
Cultural Resources																				
Public Services Housing																				
Public Safety Parks/Wilderness Areas/ Recreational Areas	/	/	/																	

The following Key is to be used when filling-out the minor modification/exploration chart:

- No adverse effect
- Minor effect
- Major adverse effect
- Beneficial effect

