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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE

Manti-LaSal National Forest  
599 West Price River Drive  
Price, Utah 84501

DOG M  
File ACT 10411002

JIM

2820 FEB 09 1982

January 28, 1982



Route to Gil & Sue

Ms. Shirley Lindsay  
OSM - Reclamation and Enforcement  
1020 15th Street, Brooks Towers  
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Ms. Lindsay:

Enclosed are the signed Environmental Assessment, Finding of No Significant Impact, and Decision Notice for the proposed SUFCO ventilation breakout in Quitchupah Canyon on the Manti-LaSal National Forest. If you have any questions, please contact the Supervisor's Office in Price, Utah.

Sincerely,

*W. H. Bl...*

for  
REED C. CHRISTENSEN  
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures

cc: D-2  
DOG M

RECEIVED  
FEB 09 1982

DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING

Environmental Assessment  
Decision Notice and  
Finding of No Significant Impact  
Southern Utah Fuel Co.  
Coal Mine Ventilation Breakout  
Quitcupah Canyon, Sevier County, Utah

Southern Utah Fuel Company has proposed, by letter of December 18, 1981, a coal mine ventilation breakout in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 32, T14S, R5E, in Quitcupah Canyon (see map). A breakout had previously been proposed (1979) and approved (Environmental Assessment approved February 13, 1980) approximately one-half mile south of this proposed breakout (see map and EA in Appendix).

As with the previous proposal, all construction would take place from within the mine, with no external access. No water or debris would be discharged or dumped from the proposed breakouts.

There are no issues or concerns associated with this proposed breakout that were not covered in the above-mentioned Environmental Assessment (EA). This assessment is tiered to the EA mentioned above, the EA for the readjustment of Federal Coal Lease SL-062583 (1981) and U-062453 (1981), and the EA for Federal Coal Lease U-47080 (1981). These environmental documents adequately cover all identified issues and concerns. The previously approved breakout was on Federal Lease U-28297; the proposed breakout is on Federal Lease U-062453.

Based on the above information, it is my decision to approve the proposed breakouts. This decision covers only the proposed ventilation breakouts and their location; no other aspect of the mine plan or operations is affected.

The stipulations included in the EA of February 13, 1980, and the following additional stipulation need to be applied to this proposal:

Mining operations shall be conducted in such a manner so as to prevent subsidence from creating potential escarpment failure and landslides and/or damaging or altering the flow of perennial streams. The lessees shall take any measures considered necessary to assure that escarpment failure does not occur.

This action is not a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment; therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared. This determination is based on the following:

1. This action is consistent with the Ferron-Price Land Management Plan.
2. There are no apparent adverse cumulative or secondary effects associated with this breakout.

3. There are no floodplains, alluvial valley floors, prime or unique range, farm, or timberlands, threatened or endangered plants or animals, wilderness or further planning areas associated with this breakout. No known archeological and/or paleontological resources will be affected by this breakout.



Reed C. Christensen  
Forest Supervisor

1/28/82

Date

APPENDIX

1. Map 1
2. Environmental Assessment of 2-13-80.

SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Federal Coal Lease U-28297  
Mining Plan  
Coastal States Energy Company

ADDENDUM

Prepared By

*John Mackey*  
District Ranger

Date 1-18-80

Approval

Recommended By

*Paul Thompson*

Date 2/12/80

Approved By

*Rose E. Latta*  
Forest Supervisor ACTING FOREST SUPERVISOR

Date 2/13/80

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DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING

## I. INTRODUCTION

Coastal States Energy Company has submitted for approval a modification to their underground mine plan for their convulsion mine. The mine plan for the convulsion mine was previously approved. A short term lease of 2632 acres was added to the mining unit and requires approval of the modification plan.

Federal Coal Lease U-28297, the mine plan addendum area, is about three miles long, and averages 1.5 miles wide, and includes 2632 acres. 263 acres are on the Manti-LaSal National Forest (Map 1), and 2369 acres are on the Fishlake National Forest. This environmental assessment covers the effect of mining activities on the 263 acres of Manti-LaSal National Forest land.

Three ventilation breakout locations have been proposed in the North Fork of Quitchupah Creek, but only one is on the Manti-LaSal National Forest. These are the only surface facilities or surface disturbances that are proposed.

The area of interest to Manti-LaSal National Forest is described as:

SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , S32, T21S, R5E (SLB&M)

The evaluation criteria are as follows:

1. The preferred alternative must be consistent with the Ferron-Price Land Management Plan, Manti-LaSal National Forest.
2. The preferred alternative must be consistent with other Federal agency programs.
3. The preferred alternative must be legally sound.
4. The impacts to the other resources in the area must be considered.

The following document was prepared previous to submittal of the mine plan addendum:

1. Environmental Assessment record/technical examination, Federal Coal Lease Sale U-28297, August 2, 1978, prepared by U.S. Forest Service.

The decisions reached in this document are applicable to mining activities as submitted by Coastal States Energy Company, October 16, 1979.

## II. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The existing environment is adequately described by the above referenced assessment document. There are no prime and unique farm lands, flood

plains, alluvial valley floors, wilderness areas, known archeological sites, and no further planning areas in the lease area.

There are no threatened and/or endangered plant species or their habitats known in the area at this time. A clearance is required before surface disturbances are allowed.

The mining in the proposed mine plan addendum area will all be underground. The coal will be mined from the existing mine works and be brought to the surface, using existing portal facilities. This action will not have any additional effects to the local communities as no supplemental work force is needed.

The entire 263 acres is within the boundaries of oil and gas leases U015670 and U-19064.

### III. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

#### Alternative 1

Do not approve the mine plan addendum. This is the "no action" plan.

#### Alternative 2

Approve the mine plan addendum with the following requirements and constraints:

- A. Mining will be done in such a manner that damage will be minimized to the steep escarpments.
- B. A monitoring plan needs to be established for subsidence and hydrology. This should be an extension of their monitoring plans for adjacent active leases.
- C. Only one ventilation breakout is authorized by this mine addendum approval.
- D. No drilling, roads, or other surface activities are authorized by this mine addendum approval.
- E. All construction access to the proposed ventilation breakout will be from within the mine.
- F. No water waste or trash will be allowed to be discharged from the ventilation breakout openings.

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IV. EVALUATION AND EFFECTS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Alternative 1

This alternative does not evaluate issues, concerns, or take into account conservation of coal reserves. It does not meet Evaluation Criteria 1, 2, or 3. Therefore, it is not a viable alternative.

Alternative 2

Meets all 4 evaluation criteria. Mining activities within the area of concern to the Manti-LaSal National Forest will be confined to underground mining operations with one ventilation breakout. The only effect mining may have on the area will result from subsidence, should it occur.

The Manti-LaSal National Forest concurs to the approval of the addendum, and adopts alternative 2 with the stated requirements and constraints.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

U-28297

Coastal States Energy Company  
Mine Plan Addendum  
USDA - Forest Service  
Manti-LaSal National Forest

An Environmental Assessment that discusses the proposed mine plan addendum for Coastal States Energy Company is available for review in the Supervisor's Office and Ferron Ranger District's Office, located in Price and Ferron, Utah.

This project will involve only a ventilation breakout surface disturbance, and the Environmental Assessment indicates that there will not be any significant effects upon the quality of the human environment, nor will there be any significant impacts on recreation, timber, range, or other resources. Therefore, it has been determined that an environmental statement will not be prepared.

This determination was based upon consideration of the following factors, all of which are discussed in the Environmental Assessment Report.

- A. The only surface disturbance will be a ventilation breakout. All activity is underground.
- B. The coal will be extracted through Coastal States existing workings.
- C. The area will be included in Coastal States Energy Company's subsidence-hydrologic monitoring plan which has been prepared for their other nearby leases.
- D. There are no threatened or endangered flora or fauna known in the area at this time, however, a clearance is required.
- E. There are no cultural and historic values, which would be destroyed, however, a clearance is required.

No adverse comments have been received or expressed about this plan.

*Reed C. Christensen*

REED C. CHRISTENSEN  
Forest Supervisor ACTING FOREST SUPERVISOR

*2/13/80*  
Date