

# MINING PLAN DECISION DOCUMENT

## Convulsion Canyon Mine Southern Utah Fuel Company Sevier County, Utah



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

Federal Coal Leases U-28297, U-62453,  
U-0149084, SL-062583, U-47080

May 1987

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Southern Utah Fuel Company  
April 1987

DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING

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# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING

Reclamation and Enforcement

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

MAY 15 1987

## Memorandum

To: Assistant Secretary-Land and Minerals Management

From: ~~Acting~~ Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

Subject: Recommendation to Approve the Convulsion Canyon Mine Mining Plan, Southern Utah Fuel Company, Sevier County, Utah, Federal Leases U-28297, U-62453, U-0149084, SL-062583, and U-47080

I recommend approval of the Convulsion Canyon mine mining plan subject to the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended. My recommendation to approve the Convulsion Canyon mine mining plan is based on: (1) Southern Utah Fuel Company's complete permit application package (PAP), as updated through December 1, 1986, (2) review of the PAP by the State of Utah as required by the Utah State program and cooperative agreement, (3) review of the complete operation and reclamation plan portion of the permit application by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, (4) the Federal lands review pursuant to section 522(b) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA), (5) comments and recommendations or concurrence of other Federal agencies, including the findings and recommendations of the Bureau of Land Management with respect to the resource recovery and protection plan and other requirements of the Federal leases and the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, (6) compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and (7) documentation assuring compliance with applicable requirements of other Federal laws, Executive Orders, and regulations.

The Secretary may approve a mining plan for Federal lands under 30 U.S.C. 207(c) and 1273(c). I find that the proposed operations will be in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations, and I recommend the Convulsion Canyon mine mining plan, updated through December 1, 1986, be approved.

Because the Secretary of the Interior and the State of Utah have entered into a cooperative agreement which provides for the delegation to the State of the permitting responsibilities for operations on Federal lands pursuant to Section 523 of SMCRA, no Federal permit will be issued.

Approval:

I approve the Convulsion Canyon mine mining plan and the attached mining plan approval document number UT-0026, dated May 1987.

James E Cason  
Deputy Assistant Secretary-Land and Minerals Management

5/19/87  
Date



United States Department of the Interior  
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING  
Reclamation and Enforcement  
BROOKS TOWERS  
1020 15TH STREET  
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

RE: 4441  
UT-026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

THROUGH: Deputy Director, Operations and Technical Services

FROM: Assistant Director, Western Field Operations

SUBJECT: Recommendation to Approve the Convulsion Canyon Mine Mining Plan, Southern Utah Fuel Company, Sevier County, Utah, Federal Leases U-28297, U-62453, U-0149084, SL-062583, and U-47080

I. Recommendation

I recommend approval with conditions of the Southern Utah Fuel Company (SUFCO) Convulsion Canyon mine mining plan. This mining plan is associated with the issuance of the initial permanent program permit for the Convulsion Canyon mine by the State of Utah under the Utah State program and cooperative agreement. The Convulsion Canyon mine is an existing underground mine which was permitted under the interim State program for Utah. My recommendation to approve the mining plan is based on the complete permit application package (PAP), updated to December 1, 1986, an Environmental Assessment of the proposed mining and reclamation operations and alternatives prepared by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), a technical analysis prepared by Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGGM), and the administrative record. Because the Secretary of the Interior and the State of Utah have entered into a cooperative agreement that delegates the permitting responsibility on Federal lands to the State, OSMRE will not issue a Federal permit for the proposed mining and reclamation operations.

Approval of this mining plan will authorize mining of approximately 40,000,000 tons of Federal coal within the approved mining plan area covering 6693 acres within Federal leases U-28297, U-62453, U-0149084, SL-062583, and U-47080, as shown on the map included with this memorandum.

Utah DOGGM reviewed the PAP under the Utah State program, the Federal lands program (30 CFR Chapter VII, Subchapter D) and the Utah cooperative agreement (30 CFR 944.30) and has recommended approval of the mining plan. Pursuant to the Utah State program and the cooperative agreement, Utah DOGGM will issue the permit for the proposed operations at the Convulsion Canyon mine after the mining plan is approved.

The operation and reclamation plan portion of the PAP was reviewed by the OSMRE, in consultation with other Federal agencies, for compliance with SMCRA, the Federal lands program, and all other requirements of applicable Federal laws. The resource recovery and protection plan was reviewed by the Bureau of Land Management for compliance with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, and 43 CFR Part 3480.

The mining plan approval document included with this memorandum will be in conformance with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA), the Federal lands program and other applicable Federal regulations, and the Utah cooperative agreement.

I recommend that you advise the Assistant Secretary-Land and Minerals Management, under 30 CFR Part 746, that the Convulsion Canyon mine mining plan is ready for approval. Utah DOGM has determined that a bond, payable to the State and the United States of America, in the amount of \$1,099,000.00 is adequate.

I have determined that approval of the mining plan will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment.

## II. Background

The Convulsion Canyon underground coal mine is located in Sevier County, Utah, approximately 30 miles east of Salina, Utah. The mine has been in operation since 1941. The permit area associated with the mining plan area contains approximately 7355 acres, approximately 6693 acres of which are leased Federal coal. Under this mining plan approval, mine production will be 2,000,000 tons of coal per year, and mining is expected to continue for 25 years.

The PAP indicated that mining operations for the life of the Convulsion Canyon mine would cease around the year 2012 and would affect approximately 7300 acres, of which 6690 acres contain federally-owned coal. I am recommending approval for the area to be mined over the life of the Convulsion Canyon mine based on the Environmental Assessment and the adequacy of the data and information provided by SUFCO in the PAP.

The underground mining operations will utilize room and pillar and longwall mining methods. The Upper Hiawatha coal seam will be mined at a production rate of approximately 2,000,000 tons per year. This mining operation will not affect any environmentally-sensitive areas.

During the review of the PAP, the following major issues were identified.

A primary issue associated with the processing of the Convulsion Canyon mine permit application was concern for the stability of a reclaimed stream channel that was originally designed over fill material. Modifications to the permit application have since been provided, allowing for reshaping of the fill material to allow the stream channel to flow on stable bedrock material; thus the concern has been resolved.

Another issue identified during the processing of the permit application was the possible impact of subsidence on a cultural resource site which may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. A special condition has been added to the State permit which requires the permittee to monitor the site and adjacent areas for subsidence and to consult with the State and OSMRE in developing mitigating measures if subsidence is predicted to occur.

The U.S. Forest Service, Manti LaSal National Forest, has required certain conditions related to the subsidence monitoring and control program. Mining, which could result in subsidence of the east escarpment of Quitchupah Creek in Federal lease U-062453, is not approved in this permit. Mining under the east escarpment will be reevaluated based on the results of longwall mining and subsidence and resource monitoring of the Block 1 and 2 areas under the west escarpment in Federal lease U-28297. A special condition attached to the State permit requires submittal of subsidence monitoring information to the U.S. Forest Service.

The U.S. Forest Service also expressed concern about the possibility of subsidence of the access entries beneath Quitchupah Creek. The applicant has stated in a letter dated November 11, 1986, that they will submit a plan for measures to be taken to insure the integrity of Quitchupah Creek, utilizing the best feasible technology, prior to abandonment of the access entries. The Forest Service found this to be acceptable for mitigating their long-term concern. However, the Forest Service is also concerned about the effects on Quitchupah Creek during the life of the mining operation. The Forest Service has requested the applicant to submit a plan for mitigating any adverse effects of subsidence on Quitchupah Creek during the life of the mine. A special condition attached to the State permit has been added which requires the applicant to address the concerns about Quitchupah Creek.

Affiliated companies of the applicant owe past due Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund fees; however, the affiliated companies have filed and are presently pursuing, in good faith, a direct judicial appeal to contest the validity of the past due fees. A special condition has been added to the State permit requiring that all amounts due the United States, as determined in the initial judgement, shall be paid according to the judgement.

The public was notified of the availability of the PAP for review by publication of newspaper notices for four consecutive weeks ending August 24, 1983. No public comments on the PAP were received during the 30-day public comment period after the public notice was published. One public comment was received after the public comment period which asserted that the permit should not be issued until the affiliate company's outstanding Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund fees are paid or a payment plan is successfully negotiated.

A technical analysis of the proposed mining and reclamation operations was prepared by Utah DOGM and was included in the documentation provided by Utah DOGM to OSMRE pursuant to the cooperative agreement. The Environmental Assessment of the proposed action and alternatives was

prepared by OSMRE. These documents, other documents prepared by Utah DOGM, the company's PAP, and other correspondence developed during the completeness and technical reviews are part of OSMRE's administrative record.

A chronology of events related to the processing of the PAP is included with this memorandum.

The Bureau of Land Management recommended approval of the mining plan in a letter dated August 9, 1983. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided its biological opinion under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act in a letter dated May 15, 1985. The State Historic Preservation Officer concurred with OSMRE's assessment and recommendations for protection of cultural resources in letters dated January 13, 1982, and January 19, 1984. The U.S. Forest Service, Manti-LaSal and Fishlake National Forests concurred in the approval of the mining plan in a letters dated January 9, 1987 and February 3, 1987, and the Bureau of Land Management concurred in the approval of the mining plan in a letter dated February 27, 1987.

The proposed mining plan approval document contains no special conditions of approval.

The information in the PAP, as well as other information identified in the decision document included with this memorandum and made available to the applicant, has been reviewed by Utah DOGM staff in coordination with the OSMRE Project Leader. Other information included the Bureau of Land Management, 1983, "Uinta-Southeastern Utah Coal Region, Final Environmental Impact Statement" and OSMRE's administrative record.

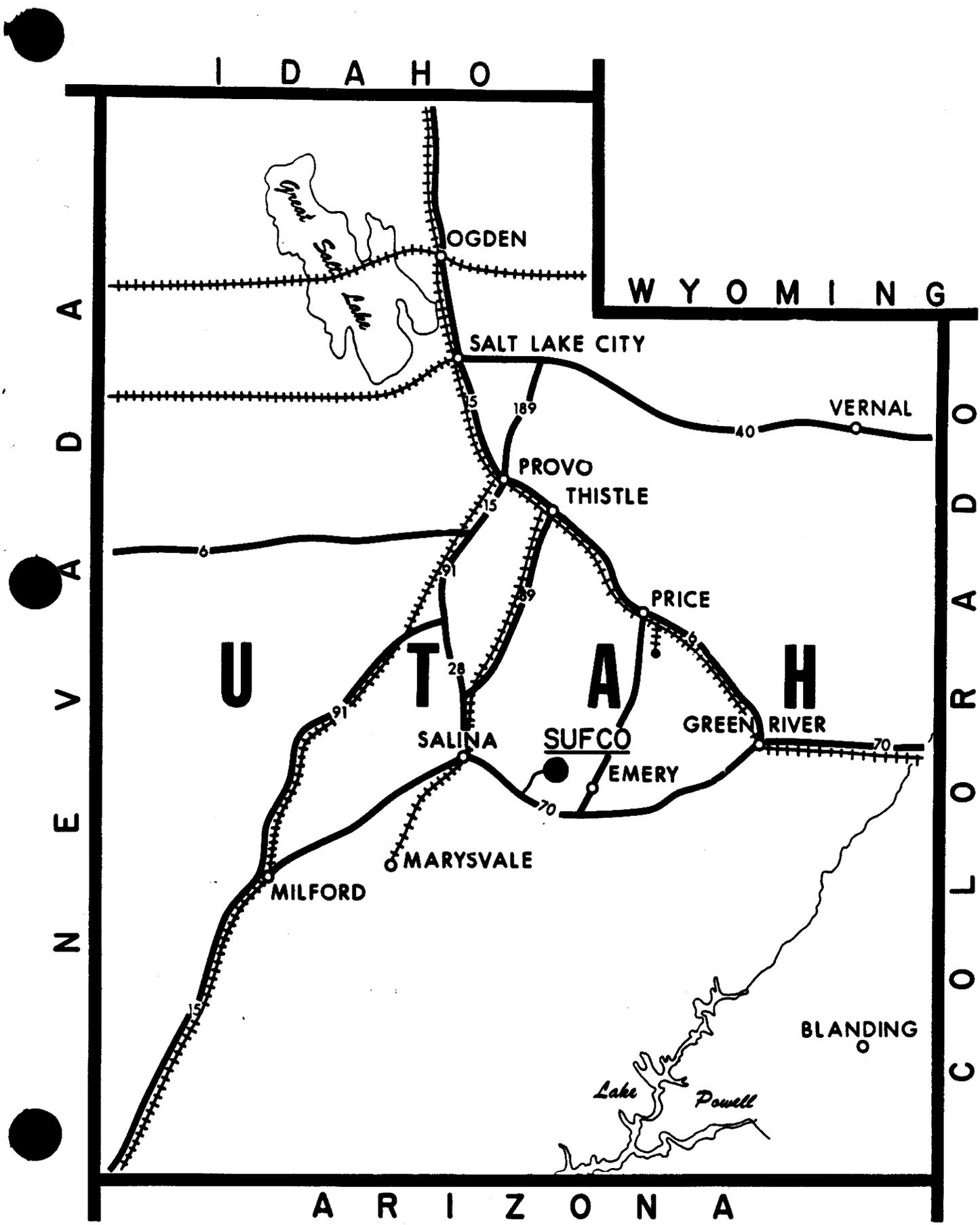
*Raymond L. Lowrie*

Raymond L. Lowrie

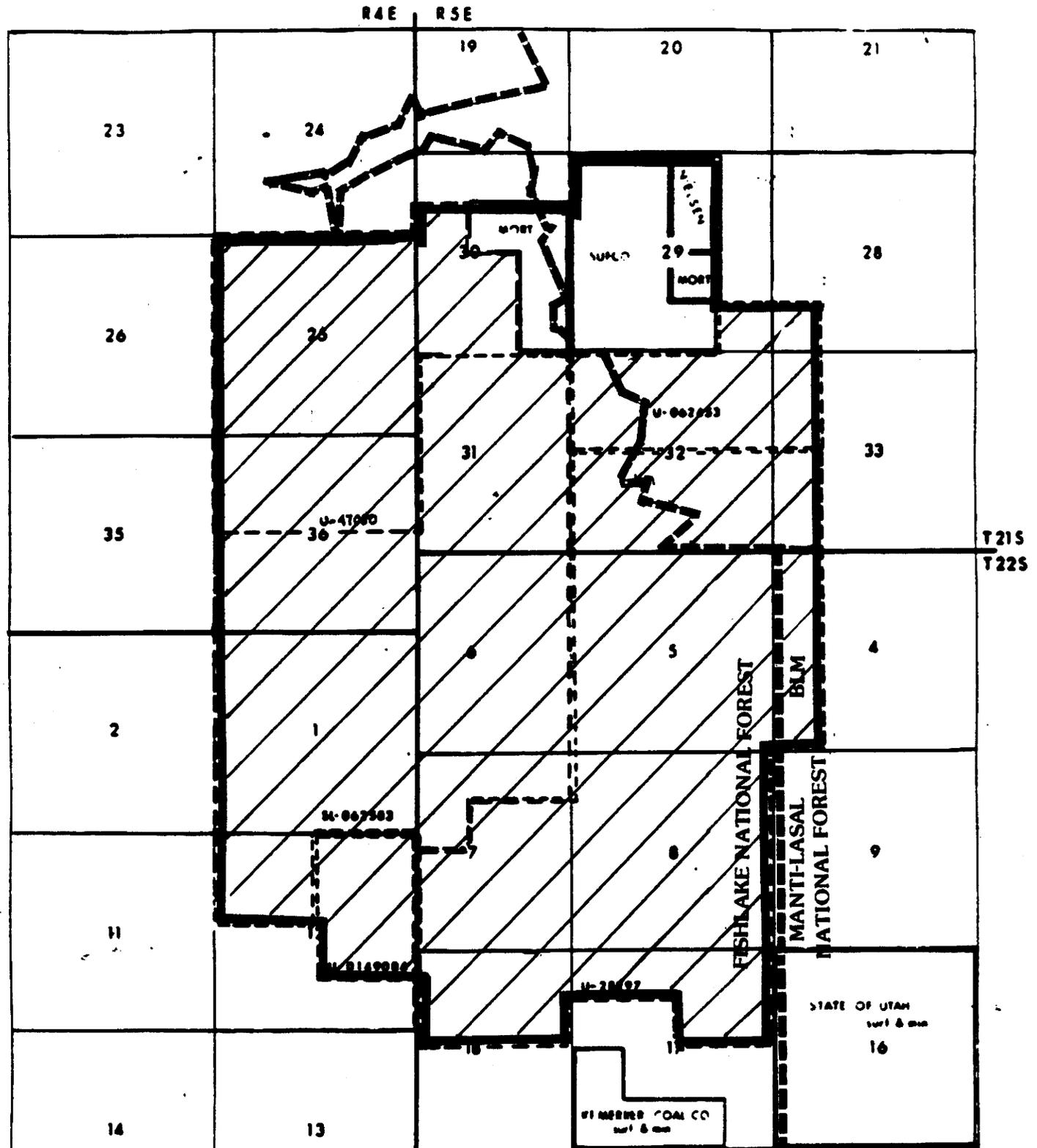
*4/30/87*

Date

GENERAL LOCATION MAP  
SUFCO MINE AREA



CONVULSION CANYON MINE  
 OWNERSHIP PLAT  
 SOUTHERN UTAH FUELS COMPANY  
 SEVIER COUNTY, UTAH



MORT - NEAL MORTENSEN et al - surface, SUFCO minerals  
 NIELSEN - BILL NIELSEN et al, BILL NIELSEN et al - surface, SUFCO - minerals  
 SUFCO - SUFCO surface and minerals  
 ALL UNDESIGNATED - UNITED STATES surface and minerals

-  PERMIT BOUNDARY
-  NATL FOREST BOUNDARY
-  LEASE BOUNDARY
-  MINE PLAN APPROVAL AREA

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

Convulsion Canyon Mine  
Southern Utah Fuel Company  
April 1987

DATE	EVENT
December 15, 1980	Southern Utah Fuel Company (SUFCO) submitted permit application package (PAP) to Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM) and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE).
March 10, 1981	U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) stated that the Mining and Reclamation plan is adequate relative to their areas of interest.
April 2, 1981	OSMRE forwarded administrative completeness review (ACR) comments to Utah DOGM.
May 7, 1981	U.S. Forest Service, Manti-LaSal, submitted deficiency comments on the reclamation plan.
May 21, 1981	U.S. Forest Service, Manti-LaSal, submitted deficiency comments regarding the proposed Subsidence Control Program.
June 5, 1981	Utah DOGM sent ACR deficiencies to SUFCO which incorporated comments submitted by OSMRE.
September 21, 1981	SUFCO submitted amendment to PAP in response to ACR comments.
October 8, 1981	USGS submitted review comments on amendment to the PAP with stipulations.
December 9, 1981	SUFCO submitted updated subsidence tables and maps.
December 11, 1981	Utah DOGM invoked administrative delay in review of the PAP.
April 25, 1983	SUFCO submitted addendum to PAP.
May 6, 1983	SUFCO submitted revised and updated PAP.

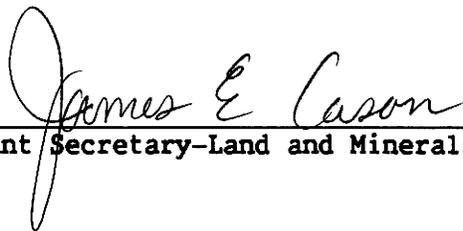
DATE	EVENT
June 2, 1983	Bureau of Land Management (BLM) found PAP in compliance relative to the BLM areas of interest.
June 14, 1983	Utah DOGM sent to SUFCO Determination of Completeness deficiency comments, requiring a response by July 8, 1983.
July 7, 1983	SUFCO submitted "July 1983 Addendum" to the PAP as a response to the Determination of Completeness.
July 15, 1983	U.S. Forest Service, Manti-LaSal, submitted deficiency comments regarding the applicant's updated subsidence material.
July 19, 1983	Utah DOGM determined the PAP complete.
August 4, 1983	U.S. Forest Service, Fishlake, requested that the applicant clarify submitted subsidence data.
August 9, 1983	BLM indicated that the mining plan was consistent with their requirements and recommended approval.
August 18, 1983	U.S. Forest Service, Fishlake, submitted a list of deficiencies to Utah DOGM.
August 24, 1983	SUFCO publishes fourth consecutive weekly notice of the availability of the complete PAP.
September 1, 1983	OSMRE requested updated socioeconomic data.
September 6, 1983	OSMRE submitted several Federal agency concerns to Utah DOGM.
September 13, 1983	Utah DOGM submitted to SUFCO a list of deficiencies on the PAP.
September 14, 1983	U.S. Forest Service, Manti-LaSal, submitted comments on the PAP.
October 25, 1983	Utah DOGM submitted draft technical analysis (TA) to OSMRE.

DATE	EVENT
November 21, 1983	OSMRE and Utah DOGM discussed the draft TA.
December 6, 1983	SUFCO submitted responses to Utah DOGM draft TA stipulations.
December 9, 1983	SUFCO submitted additional stipulation responses to Utah DOGM.
December 22, 1983	Utah DOGM submitted draft final TA to OSMRE.
January 18, 1984	OSMRE submitted comments to Utah DOGM on Utah DOGM's draft final draft TA.
April 5, 1984	SUFCO supplied supplemental information to Utah DOGM and OSMRE.
July 1, 1984	Utah DOGM submitted final TA to OSMRE.
October 8, 1984	OSMRE submitted comments on the final TA to Utah DOGM.
December 26, 1984	Utah DOGM sent additional deficiencies to SUFCO.
February 28, 1985	SUFCO submitted revised portions of PAP.
March 18, 1985	Utah DOGM submitted the revised final TA for the Convulsion Canyon mine to OSMRE and recommended approval of the PAP.
January 15, 1986	OSMRE notified Utah DOGM that additional information was still necessary for design of the reclaimed stream channel.
February 15, 1986	Final stream channel design plans were received from SUFCO.
March 13, 1986	Utah DOGM sent final revised TA to OSMRE and recommended approval of the PAP.
April 11, 1986	SUFCO submitted additional information for the PAP.
December 1, 1986	OSMRE received additional information for the PAP from SUFCO.
April 1987	OSMRE recommends approval of the PAP and mining plan.

Assistant Secretarial Findings For  
Mining Plan Approval

Convulsion Canyon Mine  
Southern Utah Fuel Company

1. The Assistant Secretary determines that approval of the Convulsion Canyon mine mining plan including the operation and reclamation plan portion of the permit application, complies with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, the terms of the leases, the Federal lands program, and all other requirements of applicable Federal laws. (See Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement Findings, the Bureau of Land Management's letters dated August 9, 1983 and February 27, 1987, and U.S. Forest Service, Manti-LaSal and Fishlake National Forests' letters dated January 9, 1987 and February 3, 1987.)
2. The Department has considered the effect of a decision on the mining plan on historic properties in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act. (See the State Historic Preservation Officer's letters dated January 13, 1982, and January 19, 1984.)
3. The proposed operation is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of threatened or endangered species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of their critical habitats, as determined under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). (See the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's letter dated May 15, 1985.)



Deputy Assistant Secretary-Land and Minerals Management

Date

5/19/87

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement Findings  
At the Time of Mining Plan Approval  
Convulsion Canyon Mine  
Southern Utah Fuel Company

1. The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) has reviewed the operation and reclamation plan portion of the Convulsion Canyon mine permit application and determines that it complies with the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA), the Federal lands program (30 CFR Chapter VII, Subchapter D), and all other requirements of applicable Federal laws. (See the Environmental Assessment and Utah's Technical Analysis.)
2. After reviewing the description of the proposed area of the mining plan approval, OSMRE determines this area is:
  - a. Not unsuitable for mining in accordance with section 522(b) pursuant to section 522(a)(2) of SMCRA. (See the Environmental Assessment and Utah's Technical Analysis.)
  - b. Not unsuitable for mining in accordance with section 522(b) pursuant to standards set forth in section 522(a)(3) of SMCRA. (See the Bureau of Land Management's letters dated August 9, 1983 and February 27, 1987, U.S. Forest Service, Manti-LaSal and Fishlake National Forests' letters dated January 9, 1987 and February 3, 1987, the Environmental Assessment, and Utah's Technical Analysis.)
  - c. Located on Federal lands within the boundaries of the Manti-LaSal and Fishlake National Forest. However, based on OSMRE's analysis and on the concurrence of the Forest Service, the surface operations and impacts of the Convulsion Canyon mine are incident to an underground coal mine and will not be incompatible with significant recreational, timber, economic, or other values of the Manti-LaSal and Fishlake National Forest. (See Environmental Assessment and the U.S. Forest Service's letters dated January 9, 1987 and February 3, 1987.)

  
Chief, Federal Programs Division  
Western Field Operations

4/30/87  
Date

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Convulsion Canyon Mine  
Southern Utah Fuel Company  
April 1987

The technical analysis prepared by Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining and the Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) preceding this "Finding of No Significant Impact" identify certain environmental impacts that would result from the Federal approval of the mining plan for Southern Utah Fuel Company's Convulsion Canyon mine. The permit application package, submitted to the State under its approved State program, proposes a total permit area of 7355 acres, all of which were previously permitted under the interim program. The permit area encompasses portions of Federal leases U-28297, U-62453, U-0149084, SL-062583, and U-47080.

The regional impacts of coal mining in the area of the Convulsion Canyon mine are addressed in the following document:

Bureau of Land Management, 1983, "Uinta-Southeastern Utah Coal Region, Final Environmental Impact Statement."

Based upon the evaluation of impacts given in the technical analysis and EA, I find that no significant impacts to the quality of the human environment would result from the proposed operations. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required.

  
Chief, Federal Programs Division  
Western Field Operations

4/30/87  
Date

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
Convulsion Canyon Mine  
Southern Utah Fuel Company  
May 1987

PURPOSE AND NEED

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) received a permit application package (PAP) involving the mining of leased Federal coal at the Southern Utah Fuel Company (SUFCO) Convulsion Canyon mine on December 15, 1980. OSMRE determined that the proposed operations described in the PAP required approval of a mining plan by the Assistant Secretary-Land and Minerals Management. Pursuant to the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, section 523 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA), and 30 CFR 746.14, the Assistant Secretary must approve, approve with conditions, or disapprove the mining plan for the mining of the Federal coal as proposed in the PAP. This document assesses the effects of the proposed mining and reclamation operations and alternative actions available to the Assistant Secretary to determine if approval, approval with conditions, or disapproval of the mining plan will have a significant impact on the human environment.

The Convulsion Canyon underground coal mine is located in Sevier County, Utah, approximately 30 miles east of Salina, Utah. The mine has been in operation since 1941. The permit area associated with the proposed mining plan area contains approximately 7355 acres, approximately 6693 acres of which are leased Federal coal within Federal leases U-28297, U-62453, U-0149084, SL-062583, and U-47080. Total surface disturbance for surface facilities is approximately 17 acres on lands managed by the U. S. Forest Service (USFS), with no additional disturbances planned. Coal is shipped by truck from the mine to Salina or Levan, Utah, where it is further shipped to buyers by truck or rail. Current employment is approximately 300, with three times that number employed in support services in the surrounding area.

The PAP proposes the mining of approximately 40,000,000 tons of Federal coal within the mining plan area. Mining is expected to continue for 25 years after approval of the mining plan.

The underground mining operations will utilize room and pillar and longwall mining methods. The Upper Hiawatha coal seam will be mined at an average production rate of approximately 2,000,000 tons per year.

On March 13, 1986, Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGGM) submitted to OSMRE its final Technical Analysis for its action on the PAP pursuant to the cooperative agreement and the Utah State program. In accordance with the Utah cooperative agreement and the guidelines of the Council on Environmental Quality, Utah DOGGM's Technical Analysis contains the State's analysis of environmental impacts of the proposed operations to assist OSMRE in the preparation of this Environmental Assessment in compliance with the

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). OSMRE has reviewed Utah DOGM's Technical Analysis and concurs with the analysis and conclusions contained therein. Utah DOGM's Technical Analysis is incorporated by reference into this environmental assessment and the analysis and conclusions are summarized below.

The regional impacts of coal mining in the area in which the Convulsion Canyon mine is located are addressed in the following document:

Bureau of Land Management, 1983, "Uinta-Southeastern Utah Coal Region, Final Environmental Impact Statement."

#### ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1, Approval Without Special Federal Conditions--The Assistant Secretary-Land and Minerals Management may approve the mining plan in accordance with the recommendation of Utah DOGM. This is the preferred alternative.

Alternative 2, Disapproval--The Assistant Secretary-Land and Minerals Management may disapprove the mining plan which would have the same effect as taking no action.

Alternative 3, Approval With Special Federal Conditions--The Assistant Secretary-Land and Minerals Management may approve the mining plan with special Federal conditions in addition to those attached to Utah permit ACT/041/002 by Utah DOGM.

#### AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

##### Topography and Geology

The proposed permit area is in the Wasatch Plateau coal field which underlies a major portion of the Wasatch Plateau in Utah. The topography consists of gently rolling surface on the Wasatch Plateau and steep V-shaped canyons with horizontal sandstone ledges at elevations from approximately 6,900 to 9,100 feet.

The major geologic formations of the area are the Blackhawk, Price River and North Horn Formations. The strata which outcrops within and adjacent to the proposed permit area consists of alternating clays, shales, and sandstones which range from upper Cretaceous to Tertiary in age. The Blackhawk Formation is the coal bearing formation with three coal bearing seams present within the lower 200 feet of this formation: (1) the Upper Hiawatha Seam; (2) the Lower Hiawatha Seam; and (3) the Duncan Seam. The Upper Hiawatha Seam, with an average thickness of 13 feet, is the only seam to be mined. The overburden above the Upper Hiawatha Seam in the permit area ranges from 0 feet at the coal outcrop to approximately 1,500 feet near Little Drum Mountain.

## Climate and Air Quality

The climate of the Convulsion Canyon mine area is typical of canyon areas of central Utah. Summer temperatures range from 40 degrees to 95 degrees (F) and winter temperatures average 25 degrees. The average annual precipitation is 12 inches. Winds in the mine area are affected by the area's topography, although general wind directions in the region are from the north-northeast in the winter and the south-southwest in the summer.

Central Utah is primarily rural with some light or dispersed industrial activity. Existing air quality is generally excellent, although high total suspended particulate values result from travel on unpaved roads. Carbon monoxide, ozone, lead, and hydrocarbons are not monitored in the region, but are estimated to be within the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) (Bureau of Land Management, 1983).

## Surface Water Hydrology

The proposed permit area is in the drainage basin of Muddy Creek, which is ultimately tributary to the Colorado River. Muddy Creek receives runoff from the lease area by way of Convulsion Canyon and Quitchupah Creek. Several springs, seeps, and runoff catchment basins also occur on the permit area. Water is introduced into the mine from faulting and fracturing of formations adjacent to sandstone overlying the coal seam. Mine water is discharged into the North Fork of Quitchupah Creek at a rate of 600,000-750,000 gallons per day. No water treatment facilities are required for this water since water quality is good and meets effluent limitations.

The placement of the fill, upon which the surface facilities are located, required the diversion of two intermittent streams. These are the East Spring Canyon Creek (drainage area of 4.8 mi<sup>2</sup>) to the northeast and Mud Spring Hollow Creek (drainage area of 3.08 mi<sup>2</sup>) to the northwest of the minesite. Both are temporary diversions and were sized to pass the 10-year, 24-hour event.

## Ground Water Hydrology

Ground-water aquifers in the Convulsion Canyon mine area are recharged principally by direct infiltration of precipitation in the higher plateau, infiltration from intermittent streams, and, to a limited extent, by infiltration in outcrops.

Mining will take place within and below strata that are units of an undeveloped areal aquifer system. The areal aquifer consists of interbedded sandstone and shale units of the Blackhawk Formation, the Castlegate Sandstone, and the Price River Formation. These formations underlie the North Horn Formation, which caps Duncan Mountain in the proposed permit area, and the Flagstaff Limestone, which lies stratigraphically above the North Horn Formation outside the proposed permit and adjacent areas. Except where folded or faulted, the regional dip of the formations is in a northwesterly direction at angles that rarely exceed 2°.

The differences in permeabilities between the Flagstaff Limestone and North Horn Formation create a perched aquifer system that is in most respects hydrologically discontinuous with the areal aquifer. Most recharge to the areal aquifer is through faults and fracture systems from direct infiltration of snowmelt and stream flow.

Well measurements near the mine indicate that most of the Blackhawk Formation is saturated. Shale and mudstone beds along with fine grain sandstones account for very low transmissivities within the formation, except along faults and fractures where water passes through beds that would normally impede flow. The mine presently produces water in sufficient quantities that it has to be discharged from the mine. Water enters the mine mainly along fractures and through bolt holes. The working face is almost always the source of some water.

Water may discharge at some points for only a few days, and at others continuously, depending on the quantity of water stored in the rock and the degree of hydrologic connection. The older workings in the mine produce less water than the newer workings do. This indicates that the volume of water that has seeped into the voids of the rock long ago has been reduced or depleted. Depleting this volume does not necessarily degrade the ground-water system. Mining in this undeveloped aquifer can have beneficial effects such as directing more high quality water into Quitchupah Creek that can be used for agriculture.

### Soils

The soils found in the proposed permit area were formed from weathering of clay, sandstone, and limestone. Four soil orders were found to exist in the area. They are alfisols, entisols, inceptisols, and mollisols. Alfisols were formed on side slopes ranging from 15 to 35 percent. Predominant vegetation consists of Douglas fir, spruce, black sagebrush, and wildrye. Entisols and inceptisols were formed on steep slopes of 60 percent or greater. Predominant vegetation is pinyon-juniper, black sagebrush, grasses, and mountain mahogany. Mollisols are found on lesser slopes ranging from 0-15 percent. Typical vegetation is ponderosa, aspen, mountain mahogany, rabbitbrush, and pinyon-juniper (see Volume 5, pp. 13-35, Map B, PAP).

The pH and EC of the soil range from approximately 5.3 to 8.6 and 0.24 to 9.6 millimhos, respectively. Soil textures are from sandy loam to clay. The A horizon ranges from as little as two inches thick in the alfisols, entisols, and inceptisols, to as deep as 12 inches thick in the mollisols (see Volume 5, tables 37-59, PAP).

### Vegetation

Vegetation types contained within the permit area and adjacent areas include the pinyon-juniper, ponderosa pine, fir and aspen types of the boreal forest biome, and the sagebrush/grass, black sagebrush, and mountain sagebrush types of the desert shrub biome.

The surface facilities for the mine occur in an area which was formerly pinyon-juniper type and cover approximately 17 acres. The pinyon-juniper type occupies about 26 percent of the lease area, or 1,611 acres. This type occurs mostly on steep canyon slopes, between 7,000 and 9,000 foot elevation.

Three ventilation breakouts were punched out from the inside into the steep canyon walls above the North Fork of Quitchupah Creek in 1982. Less than one acre was disturbed for each breakout. They occur within the pinyon-juniper and fir habitat types.

The pinyon-juniper habitat type was sampled for total cover, cover by species, shrub density, productivity and characteristics of the tree-component, including density, average height and average diameter. Adequate sampling according to Utah DOGM's vegetation information guidelines was achieved for cover and shrub density data. The sampling method used was the modified reference area method for mines with existing (pre-Law) disturbance, whereby a reference area is set up and fully characterized in a community type thought to be as similar as possible to the natural one in the area previously disturbed. A permanent reference area has been staked and will be used to judge the adequacy of revegetation efforts.

#### Fish and Wildlife

The proposed permit area consists of a variety of habitat types (see Section UMC 817.111-.117, TA) and, therefore, supports a wide variety of wildlife species. Economically important and high interest species include elk, mule deer, black bear, coyote, mountain lion, mountain cottontail, and several furbearing species. Bird species of high interest that are present in the area include the golden eagle, blue grouse, ruffed grouse, western bluebird, and Grace's warbler. Golden eagle, prairie falcon, and Cooper's hawk nests have been found in or near the proposed permit area.

None of the surface waters in the mine plan area support game fish, due either to small size, intermittent flows, or poor habitat and water quality. A three-year study to characterize the aquatic macroinvertebrate populations of the mine area surface waters is completed. The data were correlated with physical and chemical characteristics of the streams to determine potential of these waters to support a fishery. It was concluded that due to natural factors, water quality and quantity are not suitable for a fishery (see Aquatic Resources Section, Volume 6, SUFCO PAP). Stream buffer zones have been implemented at the north ventilation entries above the North fork of Quitchupah Creek and in the pumphouse-leachfield area at the bottom of East Spring Canyon, where disturbance approaches stream channels. The north ventilation entries are approximately 100 feet from the creek, and the buffer zone at the leachfield is 75 feet wide. A variance was granted for the reduced buffer zone at the leachfield, due to site constraints.

Elk utilize portions of the proposed permit area on a seasonal basis. The area is mainly used for winter range, but elk calving areas also occur on Duncan Mountain. However, since surface facilities have existed for approximately 40 years and no additional disturbances are planned in critical elk wintering or calving areas, further disturbance due to mining should be minimal. During the summer, mule deer utilize habitats near watering areas away from the surface facilities, but with the onset of winter they move lower into sage and pinyon-juniper areas in the vicinity of the mine haul and access road, which makes them susceptible to traffic mortality.

None of the raptor nests located by SUFCO's consultants or by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFS) are located near surface facilities, so no impacts to breeding birds are anticipated.

#### Land Use

Land uses in the proposed permit area including mining, logging, livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, watershed, oil and gas exploration, and recreation. Most of these uses have existed since the early 1900's and are expected to continue without disruption by continued mining at the Convulsion Canyon mine.

#### Cultural Resources

Several cultural resource inventories have been conducted on the Convulsion Canyon permit area. A total of 13 sites have been recorded, including one (1) historic site and 12 prehistoric sites.

Two of the prehistoric sites are rock shelters, while the rest can be classified as ceramic and/or lithic scatters. Collected and observed artifacts indicate that a wide range of cultural activities were being conducted in the proposed permit area for a long period of time. One of the sites (425 v 984) is considered eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

All of the sites may be impacted by subsidence and several (42 SV 1435, 1436, 1437, and 1438) have already been vandalized.

#### Transportation

There are three roads that will be used in connection with the applicant's mine facilities: Mine Access Road; East Side Road; and the Old Woman Plateau Road. The main Mine Access Road is a paved Sevier County Road (Class B) which extends from Interstate Highway 70 to the guardhouse at the minesite. SUFCO is responsible for the maintenance of the stretch of the road in the proposed permit area: 350 feet from the guardhouse north to the surface facilities area. Runoff water from this unpaved section is routed into the disturbed surface facilities area and through the main sediment control structures. The gradient of the road is 1.2 percent from the permit boundary down the disturbed area. A berm on the downhill side of the road channels water to a sedimentation pond. The county access road will be left at the conclusion of mining.

The East Side Road existed prior to mining activities for the purpose of herding livestock from the bottom of Convulsion Canyon to the upper plateau. SUFCO uses the road for access to the mine's electrical and water supply systems. No relocation of the road is planned. Mining activities are conducted within 100 feet of the right-of-way line and the road is shown on the Sevier County Class D System as a public road. The activities include the underground entry system underneath the road. The mains will not be pulled and no further mining will ensure that no subsidence or caving operations will be conducted as to affect any portion of the right-of-way. Surface activities will be conducted in a manner which will not block the road. The grade of the road averages between 7.7 percent to 13 percent. SUFCO has constructed water bars in the road approximately every 200 feet from Convulsion Canyon to the water tank.

The Old Woman Plateau Road is an unpaved Sevier County Class D road. There are no surface activities planned which will relocate or disrupt the public use of this road. As part of the subsidence monitoring program, the roads will be inspected by SUFCO personnel on a quarterly basis to look for tension cracks and, if such damage is evident, the road will be repaired by SUFCO.

A pre-existing USFS access road that is about 1,000 feet long exists within a Federal lease area. The company does not plan on closing the road or revegetating it, since it could be used for driving livestock or fighting forest fires. At the time of abandonment, the road may be closed, according to USFS direction.

#### Socioeconomics

At present, SUFCO employs 300 personnel at the mine. Current production (2 MTY) and employment is projected to remain relatively stable through the next five years, but is dependent on market conditions.

According to the company, the following list represents the residential status of employees:

<u>Location</u>	<u>1980 Census Population</u>	<u>Number Employees</u>	<u>%</u>
Sevier County			
Salina	3,615	80	27
Richfield	8,062	45	15
Aurora	874	39	13
Redmond	619	23	8
San Pete County			
Gunnison	2,431	36	12
Other (rural Sevier and San Pete County)		77	25
Total		300	100

All SUFCO employees are bussed to the mine by the company from Salina where the corporate offices are located.

By 1990, Sevier County's projected population is estimated to reach 21,615; Richfield is projected to grow to 12,088, while Salina's estimated 1990 population is 5,076. In general, Sevier County and its major communities are experiencing some stress upon their public facilities and services. Areas in need of expansion/improvement include Richfield's wastewater treatment system, and Salina's fire protection and school facilities.

Cumulative growth forecasts will require expansion of most facilities and services, the greatest need being improvement of waste water distribution systems, social services and recreation.

#### Federal Lands Review

Section 522(b) of SMCRA requires a review of Federal lands to determine, pursuant to the standards set forth in sections 522(a)(2) and 522(a)(3) of SMCRA, whether there are areas on Federal lands that are unsuitable for all or certain types of surface coal mining operations. Section 522(a)(2) requires that lands be designated unsuitable if reclamation is not technologically or economically feasible.

Section 522(a)(3) of SMCRA allows lands to be designated unsuitable for certain types of surface coal mining operations if such operations will be incompatible with existing State or local land use plans or programs; will affect fragile or historic lands where important historic, cultural, scientific, and esthetic values and natural systems could be significantly damaged; will affect renewable resource lands, including aquifers and aquifer recharge areas, in which a substantial loss or reduction of long-range productivity of water supply or of food or fiber products could result from mining; or will affect natural hazard lands, including areas subject to frequent flooding and areas of unstable geology, in which such operations could substantially endanger life and property.

The Federal lands within the permit area were reviewed by OSMRE, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Forest Service. OSMRE reviewed the permit application package and reviewed and concurs with Utah DOGM's Technical Analysis. As a result of these reviews, OSMRE has made the following determinations:

#### Reclamation Feasibility

OSMRE reviewed the operation and reclamation plan portion of the permit application and Utah DOGM's Technical Analysis and has determined that the reclamation as proposed in the PAP is technologically and economically feasible in accordance with section 522(a)(2) of SMCRA.

#### Land use

Sevier County has classified the lands in and around the Convulsion Canyon mine for rangeland/timber/mining land uses.

### Fragile and historic lands

The proposed mining and reclamation operations will not result in significant damage to important historic, cultural or scientific resources in the permit area based on the surveys and information contained in the permit application package, information provided by the State Historic Preservation Officer, and the standard Condition 7 of the mining plan approval document.

There are no important fragile lands as defined in 30 CFR 762.5 containing natural, ecologic, scientific esthetic resources, or natural systems in the permit and adjacent areas.

### Renewable resource lands

Based on the assessment of cumulative hydrologic impacts and probable hydrologic consequences of the proposed operations, the mining and reclamation operations will not result in a substantial loss or reduction of long-range productivity of the water supply in the area including aquifers and aquifer recharge areas.

The permit area is utilized for grazing (cattle and sheep) and wildlife habitat. The mining and reclamation operations will not result in a substantial loss or reduction of long-range productivity of the lands producing the food and fiber products because the lands will be reclaimed to the level of productivity that they were capable of supporting before mining.

### Natural hazard lands

There are no areas of unstable geology or areas subject to frequent flooding in the permit and adjacent areas.

## IMPACT ANALYSIS

### Impacts of Alternative 1, Approval Without Special Federal Conditions.

#### Topography and Geology

The area of surface facility disturbance consists of 17 acres and includes a fill material structure in a steep canyon. During reclamation, the top of the fill will be removed and the remaining fill reshaped to reduce the slope of the face. Due to topographic and economic constraints, the fill material will not be removed, therefore, the approximate original contour will not be achieved. Less environmental damage will result by allowing the stable fill material to remain than by requiring the applicant to remove the fill to be placed off-site, thus disturbing additional acreage.

#### Surface Water Hydrology

The applicant proposes to control surface runoff from disturbed and undisturbed areas by using a combination of diversions, berms, channels, culverts, and sedimentation ponds as discussed under Sections UMC

817.43-.46 and 817.49. In most instances, undisturbed area drainage will be separated from disturbed area drainage, except for 25.4 acres on the west slope of the canyon where precipitous slopes make it impractical to utilize diversion structures. Here, the undisturbed area drainage will be routed along with the disturbed area drainage through a sedimentation pond prior to being discharged from the mine plan area.

Surface water monitoring plans have been implemented and will continue to operate to detect any impacts from mining operations on the surface water system.

The placement of the fill upon which the surface facilities are located required the diversion of two intermittent streams. These are the East Spring Canyon Creek (drainage area of 4.8 mi<sup>2</sup>) to the northeast and Mud Spring Hollow Creek (drainage area of 3.08 mi<sup>2</sup>) to the northwest of the minesite. Both are temporary diversions and were sized to pass the 10-year, 24-hour precipitation event.

Reclamation plans for the stream channels of both Mud Spring Hollow and East Spring Creek call for the following: (1) regrading the slope of the present fill face and moving all of the fill material in the location of the reclaimed channel, allowing the stream to flow on stable bedrock; (2) removal or plugging of the by-pass culverts depending on location within the fill (where the culverts are located five feet or more below the final grade they will be plugged, otherwise they will be removed); (3) reestablishment of the stream channel with a trapezoidal shape, 3:1 sideslopes, and a bottom width of 20 feet. The design capacity of the channel and drop-structures is 1,250 cfs.

The sedimentation pond system at the Convulsion Canyon mine consists of a small concrete primary settling basin in series with a sedimentation pond equipped with a drop inlet primary spillway and a trapezoidal emergency spillway.

The sediment control system at the Convulsion Canyon mine has had a history of failure with several samples exceeding effluent limitations in the past. Several changes have been made to upgrade the system. It is the regulatory authority's opinion that these changes have the potential to reduce the problems of discharge samples exceeding limitations that have been seen in the past. The only demonstration that these changes will succeed, however, is demonstration of the performance and efficient function of the system in the future. In the opinion of the hydrologist who performed the technical analysis for the system, the calculations for predicting runoff submitted by the applicant, although calculated by acceptable techniques, are in the lower range of acceptability. Again, the burden of proof of acceptability of the system lies on the performance of the pond in the future. If the system fails to meet the standards and function correctly, expansion of the capacity of the system (or other techniques to increase detention time) must be implemented.

The applicant's proposal for protection of the surface water regime along with conditions attached to the permit will minimize impacts to surface water at the Convulsion Canyon mine.

## Ground Water

Well measurements near the mine indicate that most of the Blackhawk Formation is saturated. Shale and mudstone beds along with fine grain sandstones account for very low transmissivities within the formation, except along faults and fractures where water passes through beds that would normally impede flow. The mine presently produces water in sufficient quantities that it has to be discharged from the mine. Water enters the underground mine mainly along fractures and through bolt holes. The working face is almost always the source of some water.

Water may discharge at locations in the mine for only a few days, and at others continuously, depending on the quantity of water stored in the rock and the degree of hydrologic connection. The older workings in the mine produce less water than the newer workings do. This indicates that the volume of water that has seeped into the voids of the rock has been reduced or depleted.

Adverse impacts could occur if mining intercepts flow of some springs or seeps used by wildlife. However, SUFCO has provided plans which protect these areas from subsidence. Also, alternative plans have been developed, should impacts occur.

At the cessation of mining activity, the voids of the mine will become flooded. Since the mine workings are down dip from the mine entrances, it is believed that no discharge will take place. The portal seals will be constructed of concrete block utilizing a waterproof sealant such that the seals will withstand the hydrostatic pressure that could occur if the entire mine was inundated.

Subsidence fractures in the roof of the mine could form and drain some areas within the overlying water-bearing beds of the areal aquifer. If fractures extend to the land surface, additional recharge from overland flow may result, particularly if the fractures intersect surface streams. This additional recharge could temporarily reduce the flow of streams; however, this water, depending on quantity, would probably discharge within the drainage basin.

Based upon the information and data presented in the permit application package, the plan for mine development, the monitoring plans, and conditions to the permit, the Convulsion Canyon mine should not have an impact on the existing ground-water hydrologic regime.

## Soils

The area of surface facility disturbance consists of 17 acres. Except for the sedimentation pond, all disturbance occurred prior to the enactment of SMCRA. Therefore, only topsoil from the sedimentation pond area was removed. To supplement the available topsoil, 13,000 cubic yards of soil material from the facility pad area will be analyzed at the time of removal to determine if supplements are needed (e.g., fertilizer) and used as

substitute topsoil during reclamation. Preliminary analysis of the materials gave no indication that toxic materials were present. Impacts will be minimized by the use of soil material from the facility pad area, with chemical analyses showing suitability of the substitute material.

### Vegetation

Past mining activities have altered and/or removed 17 acres of native vegetation. No additional disturbance is proposed. The life-of-mine operations will not cause significant long-term adverse impacts because 1) adequate revegetation with native species is practical as proposed, 2) all of the mine-related disturbance has occurred, and 3) all disturbed areas will be revegetated.

### Fish and Wildlife Resources

Operations at the Convulsion Canyon mine will not cause long-term adverse fish and wildlife impacts because 1) the actual area of surface disturbance included 17 acres, all of which will be reclaimed to wildlife habitat; 2) major wildlife displacements and impacts have already been caused by the existing facilities; 3) restoration of premining fish and wildlife habitats is technically and practically feasible; and 4) essentially all disturbed habitats would be revegetated with useful plant species. Continued operation of the existing facility will not cause new or different wildlife impacts.

FWS has determined that mining activities will not affect the continued existence of endangered or threatened species, or result in impacts to critical supporting habitats.

Large raptors will be protected from electrocutions and nesting disturbances. Key or important habitats will be adequately mitigated with the development of equivalent habitats and/or substitute resources.

The mine operations and facilities pose no barriers to wildlife movements (PAP, Volume 2, page 44). Other potential impacts to wildlife include human harassment and poaching, and potential effects of subsidence on surface waters. The applicant has already initiated a program to monitor surface water to determine if diminished flows result from mine-related subsidence. Samples are taken in June, late July, and October, representing high, medium, and low flow conditions. The applicant has committed to replace waters diverted from the surface and several methods have been proposed to replace these waters (PAP, Volume 4, pages 52-54). The method to be used would depend on the specific circumstances involved.

### Cultural Resources

Impacts to cultural resources by the Convulsion Canyon mine will be minimized by permit conditions:

If during mining operations previously unidentified prehistoric or historic resources should be discovered, the permittee shall ensure that the resources are not disturbed and shall notify the State Regulatory Authority

(RA) and OSMRE. The State RA after coordination with OSMRE, shall inform the permittee of necessary actions required. Site 425 v 984 and the area adjacent to it shall be monitored for evidence of subsidence. If subsidence is predicted to occur, SUFCO must consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer, Utah DOGM, and OSMRE regarding the development and implementation of mitigating methods.

If other sites which may be sensitive to subsidence are located, the permittee will consult with the regulatory authority to determine whether mitigation measures or subsidence monitoring are necessary to either avoid adverse impacts or determine whether the sites will be impacted by subsidence.

### Socioeconomics

The major project related impact cited by local officials is SUFCO's transportation of coal through the town of Salina. Coal is currently being hauled from the site by 26 to 40 ton capacity trucks at an average rate of 11 per hour, running 20 hours a day, 6 days a week. The coal is hauled to rail facilities in Salina and in Levan, Utah (80 miles, one way) or directly to consumers. As a result, there has been a continual need to maintain the road network in the area. Local officials are attempting to facilitate plans for a rail line in the valley to minimize truck haulage of coal.

No significant adverse impacts are anticipated due to the continued operation of the Convulsion Canyon mine. Transportation impacts are the major concern to local officials. At present, the mine is a major employer in the area and helps provide stability to the local and regional economy. Cumulative forecasts, however, indicate that some communities will have to further prepare for growth as a result of future energy development projects.

### Long-Term Impacts

Long-term impacts that would occur are: continued employment of approximately 300 persons in the near future; possible subsidence on some parts of the permit area; generation of fugitive dust; minor adverse effects to wildlife due to the presence of men and machinery in the area; and loss of some springs in the area.

### Impacts of Alternative 2, Disapproval

If the Convulsion Canyon mine mining plan is disapproved, the impacts described for Alternative 1, Approval Without Special Federal Conditions, would not occur. If the mining plan is disapproved, SUFCO would not be able to mine Federal coal. This would curtail the amount of coal that the company would be able to produce and may result in mine closure. One of the most noticeable impacts of mine closure would be a permanent loss of 300 direct and induced secondary jobs in the surrounding region. Local

payrolls, retail purchases, and tax collections would also decline. In the long term, closure could result in a decline in local population. The largest share of the losses would be concentrated in Sevier and San Pete Counties.

Further, this alternative would result in a loss of approximately 40 million tons of coal. However, this alternative would preclude possible additional subsidence in unmined areas and continued impacts to water, air, and land resources. SUFCO would have the option of resubmitting a mining plan in the future.

#### Impacts of Alternative 3, Approval with Special Federal Conditions

The analysis of Alternative 1, Approval Without Special Federal Conditions, did not result in the identification of any impacts that could or should be mitigated beyond that mitigation proposed in the PAP and by Utah DOGM's conditions of approval.

#### PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

Environmental studies on the Convulsion Canyon mine prepared by Federal agencies include the following document:

Bureau of Land Management, 1983, "Uinta-Southeastern Utah Coal Region, Final Environmental Impact Statement."

#### PREPARERS

This environmental assessment was prepared by:

Megan Estep-Johnston, Project Leader  
Richard Holbrook, Senior Project Manager

1482M

**UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING**

**CONFIRMATION/REPORT OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION**

<b>T O</b>	<b>Name</b> Bob Ruesink	<b>F R O M</b>	<b>Name</b> Don Henne
	<b>Office</b> Endangered Species - FWS		<b>Office</b> TSO - WFO
	<b>Location</b> Salt Lake City, UT		<b>Location</b> Denver CO
	<b>Telephone Number</b> FTS 588-4430		<b>Telephone Number</b> FTS 564-2710

**Purpose of Call:**

To discuss the validity of our 1985 biological assessment completed for the Convulsion Canyon mine. While the impacts have not changed, I wanted to make sure that new species have not been added since our original assessment - FWS concurrence.

Bob confirmed that new species have not been added and agreed that our May

**Explanatory Remarks:**

15 1986 concurrence memo from his office was still valid.

Therefore, our original 1985 biological assessment for the Convulsion Canyon mine is still accurate and valid.

Sept. 12, 1986  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

D.R. Henne  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

ENDANGERED SPECIES OFFICE

2078 ADMINISTRATION BLDG.

1745 WEST 1700 SOUTH

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84104

IN REPLY REFER TO

May 15, 1985

OSM-WTC  
1985 MAY 20 AM 9:20  
WESTERN TECHNICAL CENTER

MEMORANDUM

TO: Russell F. Price, Chief, Engineering Analysis Division,  
Office of Surface Mining, Denver, Colorado

FROM: Field Supervisor, Endangered Species Office,  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Salt Lake City, Utah

SUBJECT: Section 7 Consultation for Southern Utah Fuel Company's  
Convulsion Canyon Mine

In response to your memorandum of April 24, 1985, concerning Section 7 consultation for the Convulsion Canyon Mine we have the following comments.

We concur with your assessment that the continued operation of the subject mine would not affect the listed Colorado River fishes. The operation of this mine produces 600,000 to 750,000 gallons of water per day from the underground working. This water is pumped into the Quitchupah Creek which eventually flows into the Colorado River. Since no depletion occurs no impacts to the fish would occur.

We appreciate your interest in conserving endangered species.

*Robert G. Ruesink*

Robert G. Ruesink  
Field Supervisor



# United States Department of the Interior

SEVIER RIVER RESOURCE AREA  
180 NORTH 100 EAST  
SUITE F  
RICHFIELD, UTAH 84701

IN REPLY  
REFER TO:

3400  
U-28297  
(U-058)

February 27, 1987

Allen D. Klein, Acting Chief  
Division of Federal Programs  
Western Field Operations  
Office of Surface Mining  
Brooks Towers, 1020 15th Streets  
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Dr. Klein:

In your letter of January 28, 1987 you request input into the Mining and Reclamation Plan for Southern Utah Fuels Company's Convulsion Canyon Mine, Federal Coal Lease U-28297. Of this lease, only Lot 4, SW $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 4, T. 22 S., R. 5 E., a total of 160.85 acres, is on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

My staff studied the Mining Plan with the criteria as set forth in 30 CFR 740.4-e in mind. We believe that with the mining there will be no significant negative effects on the present and potential land use and we concur with the Mining Plan.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Ronald L. Pennington*

District Manager



# United States Department of the Interior

SL-062583  
(U-921)

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Utah State Office  
2040 Administration Building  
1745 West 1700 South  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84104

IN REPLY  
REFER TO:

August 9, 1983

### Memorandum

To: Western Technical Center Administrator,  
Office of Surface Mining, Denver  
Attn: Mr. Walter Swain & Mr. Louis Hamm

From: Chief, Branch of Solid Minerals, SO-BLM  
Salt Lake City

Subject: Coastal States Energy Company, Southern Utah  
Fuel Company, Convulsion Canyon Mine, Sevier  
County, Utah, Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP)



The subject addendum material referred to in Mr. Swain's letter dated August 3, 1983, was delivered to this office by a company official on July 11, 1983, and July 26, 1983. The information was reviewed and placed in the appropriate part of the subject mining plan. This material comprising the July 1983 addendum to the subject MRP plan did not interfere with coal recovery procedures and does not conflict with future recovery of coal resources.

The total MRP plan submitted to this office is compatible with 30 CFR 211 rules, effective August 30, 1982, and will not conflict with our administration of the associated Federal coal leases. The total plan will achieve maximum economic recovery within the limits of the equipment and technology presently being planned and/or used.

We recommend approval of the underground mining plan part of the mining and reclamation plan permit application package.

*J. Gordon Whitney*  
Acting

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Manti-LaSal  
National Forest

599 West Price River Drive  
Price, Utah 84501

OSMRE WFO

1987 JAN 10

WESTERN OPERATIONS

Reply to: 2820

Date: January 9, 1987

Mr. Lowell Braxton  
State of Utah Natural Resources  
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
355 West North Temple  
3 Triad Center, Suite 350  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

Dear Mr. Braxton:

RE: Convulsion Canyon Mine

We have reviewed Southern Utah Fuel Company's (SUFCo) response letter, dated November 11, 1986, which addresses our concern regarding possible subsidence under Quitchupah Creek.

Our concern is generally for protection of the integrity of Quitchupah Creek in the long run after the mine is abandoned.

The surface and underground subsidence monitoring should be adequate to indicate if the area above the access entries experiences subsidence in the short term during operations, and sometime thereafter. We have no problems with the subsidence and water flow monitoring programs for this area as proposed in the letter.

SUFCo states that prior to abandonment of the access entries which cross under Quitchupah Creek, they will submit a plan for measures to be taken to insure the integrity of Quitchupah Creek. Since technology is rapidly advancing, SUFCo's reply also states that the plan will utilize the best feasible technology.

Since the access entries have already been constructed and are in use, we agree with this approach for mitigating our long-term concern. In the event that subsidence occurs under Quitchupah Creek during the life of the mine, appropriate measures must also be taken, in the interim, to mitigate adverse effects.

The Mine and Reclamation Plan (M&RP) must be amended to address the possibility of subsidence and related effects to Quitchupah Creek, and include the provisions discussed in SUFCo's letter. It must also be stated that a plan for mitigation of adverse effects to Quitchupah Creek will be submitted for approval in the event that subsidence and related effects to Quitchupah Creek occur during the life of the mining operation.

The Manti-LaSal National Forest's consent for approval of the M&RP is contingent upon including this information.

Sincerely,

/s/ William H. Boley

for  
REED C. CHRISTENSEN  
Forest Supervisor

cc: Richard Holbrook - OSM, Fishlake N.F., D-2

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Manti-LaSal  
National Forest

599 West Price River Dr.  
Price, Utah 84501

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Reply to: 2820

Date: September 9, 1986

Meg Estep  
Office of Surface Mining  
Reclamation and Enforcement  
Brooks Towers - 1020 15th Street  
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Ms. Estep:

We have reviewed Southern Utah Fuel Company's PAP modification regarding subsidence control and monitoring dated June 23, 1986.

SUFECO has proposed to modify their PAP to allow for longwall mining and increase coal recovery in Blocks 1 and 2 under the west escarpment of Quitchupah Creek. This would involve subsidence at the escarpment. The escarpment at this location was previously identified for protection according to lease stipulation No. 14 contained in Federal Coal Lease U-28297.

Please refer to our letter to the Bureau of Land Management dated September 13, 1984 (copy attached). Since the interests of the Federal agencies and industry alike are to optimize coal recovery while minimizing damage to the land surface, the Forest consented to "First Mining/Double Pass" under the east escarpment on Federal Coal Lease U-062453. This decision was based on the need to determine what effects would result to the escarpment from this mining method, and was conditional upon SUFECO implementing a photogrammetric subsidence monitoring program which would provide detailed monitoring of any such effects. Rather than modify stipulation No. 14, this approach allowed for exceptions to the stipulation by specific consent.

SUFECO's PAP modification in question calls for longwall mining under the west escarpment (Blocks 1 and 2) and implementation of a photogrammetric subsidence and resource monitoring plan. According to the proposal, longwall mining will progress from the interior of the plateau toward the escarpment, theorizing that subsidence will have the effect of leaning toward the plateau, decrease the canyon slope, and would not cause hazardous conditions on the escarpment.

In order to test this theory, conditioned upon implementation of the photogram-metric monitoring program, we would consent to shifting specific consent for exception to stipulation No. 14 from the east escarpment on U-062453 to the Block 1 and 2 longwall areas on U-28297 under the west escarpment. Since mining along the east escarpment is not planned for several years (mid 1990's), specific consent for mining which could cause subsidence to the east escarpment must be re-evaluated prior to mining, based on the results of longwall mining and subsidence and resource monitoring of the Block 1 and 2 areas. The PAP modification must indicate that the east escarpment will be protected by including it in the "No Subsidence Zone" on Map 80-10B, pending results of subsidence and resource monitoring for the longwall panels on the west escarpment.

Our comments on the Subsidence Monitoring and Control Program are as follows:

1. The underground and surface survey coordinate system should be tied to the State Plane Coordinate System.
2. The entire permit area must be covered by color infrared (CIR) photography as part of the data base. CIR photography of the area affected by mining, including the angle of draw, must be flown at 5 year intervals or at more frequent intervals, as needed, to quantify affects to resources.
3. One print of each exposure of the baseline black and white (B&W) and CIR photography must be sent to the Forest Service (Fishlake and Manti-LaSal National Forests as appropriate), with photo index maps. Prints of the subsequent B&W and CIR photography and a map showing permanent monument locations with the surveyed coordinates (ground control) must also be sent to the Forest Service. Both the Fishlake and Manti-LaSal National Forests must be provided with a copy of annual and subsequent subsidence and hydrologic monitoring results and reports.

Sincerely,

/s/ William H. Boley

for  
 REED C. CHRISTENSEN  
 Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

cc:

Dr. D. Nielson - DOGM

BLM - G. Nodine

SUFCO - K. Frame

D-2

C. Reed ✓

Fishlake N.F. - Dick Alfred

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Manti-LaSal  
National Forest

599 West Price River Dr.  
Price, Utah 84501

OSM-WTC

1986 JUL 25 AM 8:51

WESTERN TECHNICAL CENTER  
Date: July 23, 1986

Ron Naten  
Office of Surface Mining  
Brooks Towers  
1020 15th Street  
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Mr. Naten:

As stated in our November 15, 1984, letter to OSM, three concerns were identified during the review of the Convulsion Canyon Mining and Reclamation Plan. The first being that the integrity of Quitchupah Creek be maintained downstream from the private property where undermining of the creek has taken place. The intent of the concern was that the Bureau of Land Management review the proposed mining section respective to the existing downstream values and uses such as water quantity, water quality, irrigation use, culinary use, wildlife use, range use, and riparian habitat. These types of uses must remain at their present levels. When the Bureau of Land Management verifies in writing that the undermining of Quitchupah Creek would not adversely effect these values, this concern would be adequately addressed.

The second concern raised was that the escarpments be protected in such a manner that failure resulting from mining activities does not occur. This is a lease stipulation and must be complied with. Any variance to this stipulation must have Forest Service consent. Since the Bureau of Land Management has the responsibility of reviewing the proposed mining section, they should also verify in writing that proposed underground mining activities will not cause escarpment failure.

The third and last point was that Southern Utah Company establish a subsidence monitoring plan that meets the needs of the Forest Service and the intent of the regulations. The company must furnish the Forest Service a copy of their subsidence plan for review and state when the plan will be initiated. Recent conversations and meetings with personnel from the mine would indicate that this could be done in the near future.

If there are any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,



for  
REED C. CHRISTENSEN  
Forest Supervisor



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Manti-LaSal  
National Forest

599 West Price River Drive  
Price, Utah 84501

Reply to: 2820

Date: November 15, 1984

Allen Klein, Administrator  
OSM - Reclamation and Enforcement  
Brooks Towers - 1020 15th Street  
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Mr. Klein:

Two letters sent to the OSM Office in Denver by the Manti-LaSal National Forest dated January 11, 1984 and January 26, 1984, discussed concerns with the Convulsion Canyon Mine development on Federal Coal Leases U-062453 and U-28297. The concerns identified were: (1) the integrity of Quitchupah Creek be maintained downstream from the private property where undermining of the creek has taken place, (2) the escarpments be protected in such a manner that failure resulting from mining activities does not occur, and (3) that Southern Utah Fuel Company establish a subsidence monitoring plan that meets the need of the Forest Service and the intent of the regulations. The Forest Service has been and is willing and available to work with Southern Utah Fuel Company to develop such a subsidence monitoring plan.

To continue our cooperative efforts, I will consent for the Manti-LaSal National Forest to the Convulsion Canyon Mining and Reclamation Plan subject to the Forest receiving satisfactory responses to the above mentioned concerns.

Sincerely,

REED C. CHRISTENSEN  
Forest Supervisor





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE  
FISHLAKE N. F.  
115 EAST 900 NORTH  
RICHFIELD, UTAH 84701

OSMRE-WFO

FEB -6 11 9 42

WESTERN FIELD OPERATIONS

Reply To: 2820

Date: February 3, 1987

Mr. Allen Klein  
Acting Chief of Division  
of Federal Programs  
1020 15th Street  
Brooks Towers  
Denver, Colorado 80202

Mr. Klein:

I would like to thank you and your staff for giving me an opportunity to review the Environmental Assessment (EA) and supporting documentation for the Mine Reclamation Plan for the Coastal States Energy Southern Utah Fuel Company (SUFCo) Mine. After review of the EA and supporting documentation, I feel that our concerns on subsidence, Threatened and Endangered Species, cultural resources, and floodplains and wetlands have been adequately addressed.

Sincerely,

J. KENT TAYLOR  
Forest Supervisor

cc:  
Lowell Braxton, UDOGM  
Reed C. Christensen, Manti-LaSal N.F.  
Ken Payne, SUFCo  
✓ Meg Estep Johnston, OSM  
Sue Linner, UDOGM



*Had referred to Mary Cook, Director  
To Albuquerque 2/15/84 2/15/84*



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Fishlake  
National  
Forest

Supervisor's Office  
115 East 900 North  
Richfield, Utah 84701

2820 - 4

Reply to: Southern Utah Fuel Co. Mine  
Convulsion Canyon, Sevier Co.  
Date: February 10, 1984 Utah

Office of Surface Mining  
Reclamation and Enforcement  
Attn: Mr. Louis Hamm  
Brooks Towers  
1020 15th Street  
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Lou:

This is in follow-up to our telephone responses given earlier for each of the "OSM Transmittal Sheets" listed below. We have reviewed the material addressed by each sheet and find it adequately covers our concerns. The Transmittal Sheets, by date and description of material are:

- 1) December 27, 1983 - 9/26/83 revisions regarding the 1983 Vegetation Study;
- 2) December 27, 1983 - 12/9/83 revisions regarding six stipulations of Mining and Reclamation Plan; and
- 3) January 10, 1984 - 12/6/83 revisions regarding 14 stipulations in 10/25 Technical Analysis Document.

Also, your January 10, 1984 response to our August 18, 1983 letter, adequately resolves the six issues of concern we expressed regarding the Convulsion Canyon permit application package. We are not aware of any remaining deficiencies regarding the Convulsion Canyon mine permit application.

Sincerely,

*Ronald K. Jew*

for J. KENT TAYLOR  
Forest Supervisor



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 FOREST SERVICE  
 FISHLAKE N. F.  
 RICHFIELD RANGER DISTRICT  
 115 EAST 900 NORTH  
 RICHFIELD, UTAH 84701

*Sokco Job*  
*S. Linn*  
*OSM Denver*

OSM-WTC

1986 SEP -8 AM 9:35

WESTERN TECHNICAL CENTER  
 Reply To: 2820

Date: March 23, 1986

Lowell Braxton, Administrator  
 Mineral Resource Development and Reclamation Prog.  
 State of Utah Natural Resources - Oil, Gas & Mining  
 355 W. North Temple  
 3 Triad Center-Suite 350  
 Salt Lake City, Utah 84180

Dear Mr. Braxton:

The Forest Service is in agreement with the February 24, 1986 version of the Drainage Plan and Slope Stability for Reclamation for Southern Utah Fuel Company, Convulsion Canyon Mine. We are suggesting no additional consideration and accept the proposed plan.

Sincerely,

*J. Kent Taylor*  
 J. KENT TAYLOR  
 Forest Supervisor

**RECEIVED**  
 APR 02 1986

DIVISION OF  
 OIL, GAS & MINING



OIL, GAS & MINING



SCOTT M. MATHESON  
GOVERNOR

*Li*  
RS  
ES

STATE OF UTAH  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

January 13, 1982

Division of  
State History  
(UTAH STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY)

MELVIN T. SMITH, DIRECTOR  
300 RIO GRANDE  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84101  
TELEPHONE 801 / 533-5755

Division of Oil, Gas & Mining  
Mr. Gilbert L. Hunt  
1588 North West Temple  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

RE: Review of Mine Plan, Southern Utah Fuel Company - Convulsion  
Canyon Mine, ACT/041/002, Addendum, Sevier County, Utah

Dear Mr. Hunt:

The staff of the Utah State Historic Preservation Officer has received the addendum information concerning cultural resources for the Convulsion Canyon Mine, owned and operated by Southern Utah Fuel Company.

Our staff has reviewed the information. The addendums furnished by the contractor for Southern Utah Fuel Company meet all questions that were originally brought forth by the Office of Surface Mining. Therefore, the documentation appears to be complete enough to satisfy the Office of Surface Mining.

Our office has one observation concerning site (42Sul435). This site has been recommended for excavation by the cultural resource contractor, however, the site has been badly vandalized. Therefore, if there is no direct impact by the mining operation on the site, there would be no effect on this site. This information may be used by Oil, Gas, & Mining in determining, with the Office of Surface Mining, whether excavation is essential or not.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact this office at 533-7039.

Sincerely,

Melvin T. Smith  
Director and  
State Historic Preservation Officer

JLD:jr:D829/1844c



SCOTT M. MATHESON  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF UTAH  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Division of  
State History  
(UTAH STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY)

MELVIN T. SMITH, DIRECTOR  
300 RIO GRANDE  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84101  
TELEPHONE 801/533-5755

January 19, 1984

Rex L. Wilson  
Chief Archeologist  
Office of Surface Mining  
Reclamation and Enforcement  
Brooks Towers  
1020 15th Street  
Denver, Colorado 80202

RE: Convulsion Canyon Mine

In Reply Refer To: G368

Dear Mr. Wilson:

The Utah Preservation Office has received for consideration your letter of January 3, 1984, requesting concurrence of no effect concerning site 42Sv984. After review of the material provided, our office concurs with that determination of no effect, as outlined by 36 CFR 800.

The above is provided on request as information or assistance. We make no regulatory requirement, since that responsibility rests with the federal agency official. However, if you have questions or need additional assistance, please let us know. Contact Jim Dykman at 533-7039.

Sincerely,

Wilson G. Martin  
Deputy State Historic  
Preservation Officer

JLD:jrc:G368/0015V

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

This mining plan approval document is issued by the United States of America to:

Southern Utah Fuel Company  
P.O. Box P  
Salina, Utah 84654

for the Convulsion Canyon mine subject to the following conditions. Southern Utah Fuel Company is hereinafter referred to as the lessee/operator.

Condition 1. Statutes and Regulations.--This mining plan approval is issued pursuant to Federal coal leases U-28297, U-62453, U-0149084, SL-062583, and U-47080; the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.); and in the case of acquired lands, the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands of 1947, as amended (30 U.S.C. 351 et seq.). This mining plan approval is subject to all applicable regulations of the Secretary of the Interior including, but not limited to, 30 CFR Chapter VII and 43 CFR Group 3400, and to all regulations of the Secretary of Energy, which are now or hereafter in force; and all such regulations are made a part hereof. The lessee/operator shall comply with the provisions of the Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1151 et seq.), the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.) and other applicable Federal laws.

Condition 2. This document approves the Convulsion Canyon mine mining plan, updated through December 1, 1986, and authorizes coal development or mining operations on Federal lands within the area of mining plan approval. This authorization is not valid beyond

Lease No. U-28297 - T.21S., R. 5E., SLM, Utah; Sec.32, Lots 1-4, N1/2 S1/2; Sec. 33, Lot 1, NW1/4 SW1/4. T.22S., 5E., SLM, Utah; Sec. 4, Lot 4, SW1/4 NW 1/4, W1/2 SW1/4; Sec.5, all; Sec.7, S1/2 NE1/4, E1/2 SW1/4, SE1/4; Sec. 8, all; Sec. 17, NE1/4, N1/2 NW1/4; Sec. 18, NE 1/4, E1/2 NW1/4;

Lease No. U-062453 - T.21S., R. 5E., SLM, Utah; Sec.28, SW1/4 SW1/4; Sec. 29, SE1/4 SE1/4; Sec. 32, N1/2; Sec.33, W1/2 NW1/4;

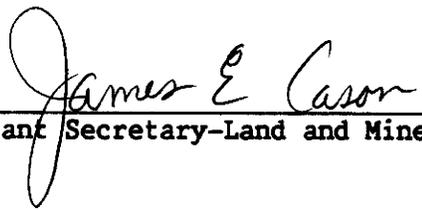
Lease No. U-0149084 - T.22S., R. 4E., SLM, Utah; Sec.12, NE1/4 N1/2 SE1/4;

Lease No. SL-062583 - T.21S., R. 4E., SLM, Utah; Sec.36, S1/2. T.21S., R.5E., SLM, Utah; Sec. 31 all. T.22S., R.4E., SLM, Utah; Sec. 1,, Lots 1-4, S1/2 N1/2, S1/2; Sec. 12. NW1/4. T.22S., R.5E., SLM, Utah; Sec. 6, all; Sec. 7, NE1/2 NE1/4, E1/2 NW1/4;

Lease No. U-47080 - T.21S., R. 4E., SLM, Utah; Sec. 25, all; Sec. 36, N1/2. T.21S., R.5E., SLM, Utah; Sec. 30, Lots 2-4, W1/2 SE1/4;

as shown on the map appended hereto as Attachment A.

- Condition 3. The lessee/operator shall conduct coal development and mining operations only as described in the complete permit application package, updated to December 1, 1986, and approved by the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, except as otherwise directed in the conditions added to this mining plan approval.
- Condition 4. The lessee/operator shall comply with the terms and conditions of the leases and the approved mining plan, and the requirements of the Utah Permit number ACT/041/002 issued under the Utah State program, approved pursuant to the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.).
- Condition 5. This mining plan approval shall be binding on any person conducting coal development or mining operations under the approved mining plan and shall remain in effect until superseded, cancelled, or withdrawn.
- Condition 6. The lessee/operator shall allow the authorized representatives of the Secretary, and the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, without advance notice or a search warrant, upon presentation of appropriate credentials, and without delay to:
- a. Have the rights-of-entry provided for in 30 CFR 842.13, 43 CFR Group 3400, and UMC/SMC 840.12 and 842.13; and
  - b. Be accompanied by private persons for the purpose of conducting an inspection in accordance with 30 CFR 842.12 and UMC/SMC 842.12, when the inspection is in response to an alleged violation reported by the private person.
- Condition 7. If during the course of mining operations previously unidentified prehistoric or historic resources are discovered, the lessee/operator shall ensure that the resources are not disturbed and shall notify Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining and OSMRE. The lessee/operator shall take such necessary actions as are required by Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining in coordination with OSMRE.

  
Deputy Assistant Secretary—Land and Minerals Management

Date 5/19/87





STATE OF UTAH  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
Oil, Gas & Mining

Norman H. Bangerter, Governor  
Dee C. Hansen, Executive Director  
Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D., Division Director

355 W. North Temple • 3 Triad Center • Suite 350 • Salt Lake City, UT 84180-1203 • 801-538-5340

May 26, 1987

Mr. Vernal Mortensen  
Vice President, Utah Operations  
Coastal States Energy Company  
175 East 400 South, Suite 800  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

*Vernal*  
Dear Mr. Mortensen:

Re: State Permit, Convulsion Canyon Mine, ACT/041/002, Folder  
No. 2 & 3, Sevier County, Utah

Enclosed is the five year permanent program mining permit for the Convulsion Canyon Mine. Two originals are included. Since Utah has a cooperative agreement with the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, no federal permit will be issued. Federal agency conditions have been incorporated into the state permit. Please read the special conditions in attachments A and A-1, then sign both copies of the permit and return one to the Division.

Thank you for your cooperation during the permitting process.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Dianne'.

Dianne Nielson  
Director

pb  
Enclosure  
cc: K. Payne, SUFCO  
P. Rutledge, OSM  
L. Braxton  
S. Linner  
0028R-55

FEDERAL  
(April 1987)

Permit Number ACT/041/002, May 19, 1987

STATE OF UTAH  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING  
355 West North Temple  
3 Triad Center, Suite 350  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203  
(801) 538-5340

This permit, ACT/041/002, is issued for the state of Utah by the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGGM) to:

Coastal States Energy Company  
175 East 400 South, Suite 800  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111  
(801) 596-7111

for the Convulsion Canyon Mine. Coastal States Energy Company is the lessee of federal coal leases SL-062583, U-062453, U-0149084, U-28297, and U-47080 and the lessee of a fee-owned parcel. A performance bond is filed with the DOGM in the amount of \$1,099,000.00, payable to the state of Utah, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE). DOGM must receive a copy of this permit signed and dated by the permittee.

- Sec. 1 STATUTES AND REGULATIONS - This permit is issued pursuant to the Utah Coal Mining and Reclamation Act of 1979, Utah Code Annotated (UCA) 40-10-1 et seq, hereafter referred to as the Act.
- Sec. 2 PERMIT AREA - The permittee is authorized to conduct underground coal mining activities on the following described lands (as shown on the map appended as Attachment B) within the permit area at the Convulsion Canyon Mine situated in the state of Utah, Sevier County, and located:

Township 21 South, Range 4 East, SLBM

Section 25: All  
Section 36: All

Township 21 South, Range 5 East, SLBM

Section 28: SW 1/4 SW 1/4  
Section 29: W 1/2, W1/2 E1/2, SE 1/4 SE 1/4  
Section 30: S 1/2, S 1/2 N1/2  
Section 31: All  
Section 32: All  
Section 33: W 1/2 W 1/2

Township 22 South, Range 4 East, SLBM

Section 1: All  
Section 12: N 1/2, N 1/2 SE 1/4, portion of NE 1/4 SW 1/4

Township 22 South, Range 5 East, SLBM

Section 4: W 1/2 W 1/2  
Section 5: All  
Section 6: All  
Section 7: All  
Section 8: All  
Section 17: NE 1/4, N 1/2 NW 1/4  
Section 18: N 1/2

This legal description is for the permit area (as shown on Attachment B) of the Convulsion Canyon Mine. The permittee is authorized to conduct underground coal mining activities connected with mining on the foregoing described property subject to the conditions of the leases, the approved mining plan, including all conditions and all other applicable conditions, laws and regulations.

- Sec. 3 PERMIT TERM - This permit expires on May 20, 1992.
- Sec. 4 ASSIGNMENT OF PERMIT RIGHTS - The permit rights may not be transferred, assigned or sold without the approval of the Director, DOGM. Transfer, assignment or sale of permit rights must be done in accordance with applicable regulations, including but not limited to 30 CFR 740.13(e) and UMC 788.17-.19.
- Sec. 5 RIGHT OF ENTRY - The permittee shall allow the authorized representative of the DOGM, including but not limited to inspectors, and representatives of OSMRE, without advance notice or a search warrant, upon presentation of appropriate credentials, and without delay to:

- A. have the rights of entry provided for in 30 CFR 840.12, UMC 840.12, 30 CFR 842.13 and UMC 842.13; and,
- B. be accompanied by private persons for the purpose of conducting an inspection in accordance with UMC 842.12 and 30 CFR 842, when the inspection is in response to an alleged violation reported by the private person.

Sec. 6 SCOPE OF OPERATIONS - The permittee shall conduct underground coal mining activities only on those lands specifically designated as within the permit area on the maps submitted in the mining and reclamation plan and permit application and approved for the term of the permit and which are subject to the performance bond.

Sec. 7 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS - The permittee shall minimize any adverse impact to the environment or public health and safety through but not limited to:

- A. accelerated monitoring to determine the nature and extent of noncompliance and the results of the noncompliance;
- B. immediate implementation of measures necessary to comply; and
- C. warning, as soon as possible after learning of such noncompliance, any person whose health and safety is in imminent danger due to the noncompliance.

Sec. 8 DISPOSAL OF POLLUTANTS - The permittee shall dispose of solids, sludge, filter backwash or pollutants in the course of treatment or control of waters or emissions to the air in the manner required by the approved Utah State Program and the Federal Lands Program which prevents violation of any applicable state or federal law.

Sec. 9 CONDUCT OF OPERATIONS - The permittee shall conduct its operations:

- A. in accordance with the terms of the permit to prevent significant, imminent environmental harm to the health and safety of the public; and

B. utilizing methods specified as conditions of the permit by DOGM in approving alternative methods of compliance with the performance standards of the Act, the approved Utah State Program and the Federal Lands Program.

- Sec. 10 AUTHORIZED AGENT - The permittee shall provide the names, addresses and telephone numbers of persons responsible for operations under the permit to whom notices and orders are to be delivered.
- Sec. 11 COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS - The permittee shall comply with the provisions of the Water Pollution Control Act (33 USC 1151 et seq,) and the Clean Air Act (42 USC 7401 et seq), UCA 26-11-1 et seq, and UCA 26-13-1 et seq.
- Sec. 12 PERMIT RENEWAL - Upon expiration, this permit may be renewed for areas within the boundaries of the existing permit in accordance with the Act, the approved Utah State Program and the Federal Lands Program.
- Sec. 13 CULTURAL RESOURCES - If during the course of mining operations, previously unidentified cultural resources are discovered, the permittee shall ensure that the site(s) is not disturbed and shall notify DOGM. DOGM, after coordination with OSMRE, shall inform the permittee of necessary actions required. The permittee shall implement the mitigation measures required by DOGM within the time frame specified by DOGM.
- Sec. 14 APPEALS - The permittee shall have the right to appeal as provided for under UMC 787.
- Sec. 15 SPECIAL CONDITIONS - In addition to the general obligations and/or requirements set out in the leases, the federal mining plan approval, and this permit, the permittee shall comply with the special conditions appended hereto as Attachment A and the federal conditions appended as Attachment A-1.

The above conditions (Secs. 1-15) are also imposed upon the permittee's agents and employees. The failure or refusal of any of these persons to comply with these conditions shall be deemed a failure of the permittee to comply with the terms of this permit and the lease. The permittee shall require his agents, contractors and subcontractors involved in activities concerning this permit to include these conditions in the contracts between and among them. These conditions may be revised or amended, in writing, by the mutual consent of DOGM and the permittee at any time to adjust to changed conditions or to correct an oversight. DOGM may amend these conditions at any time without the consent of the permittee in order to make them consistent with any new federal or state statutes and any new regulations.

THE STATE OF UTAH

By:

Dianne P. Nelson

Date:

May 26, 1987

I certify that I have read and understand the requirements of this permit and any special conditions attached.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Representative of  
the Permittee

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By:

Barbara W. Robert  
Assistant Attorney General

Date:

May 27, 1987

1179R

ATTACHMENT A

Special Permit Conditions

Stipulation 817.42-(1)-RS/OSM

1. The permittee shall monitor the drainage from Areas 1, 2 and 3 in order to demonstrate the effectiveness of the alternative sediment treatment measures. The data shall be submitted to the R. A. for review quarterly. If the R. A. notifies the permittee that the alternative controls are not in compliance, the permittee shall submit to the R. A., within 30 days of such notice, a plan for treating these areas in a sedimentation pond, and within 120 days of such notice shall achieve compliance with applicable standards.

Stipulation 817.52-(1)-DD

1. The applicant will be required to establish trends in water quality and quantity and to establish site specific changes, if any, to the prevailing hydrologic balance via an in-mine monitoring plan. The plan should consist at a minimum of, but not be limited to the following:

Base Line

- a. Two years of baseline data collected (one set of samples taken at low flow) on a quarterly basis (or four on at least 60 day increments) and consisting of an inventory of all inflows of the working portions of the mines.
- b. In cooperation with DOGM, the applicant should select from the inventory representative sampling sites (which may change as mining progresses) of the mine flows greater than three gallons per minute (gpm), monitor for the other field parameters listed in Table 1 (attached), and collect water quality samples. The water quality samples should be analyzed for the constituents listed in Table 1 (attached).

Operational

- a. Collect an inventory of in-mine flow on a quarterly (four total on at least 60 day increments) basis.
- b. In cooperation with DQGM, the applicant should select for the inventory representative sampling sites (which may change as mining progresses) of in-mine flows greater than 3 gpm, monitor for the other field parameters listed in Table 1, and collect water quality samples. The samples should be analysed for the constituents listed in Table 1 that are marked with an asterisk.

On at least an annual basis the applicant should submit the monitoring data in an annual hydrologic report. Included in the report should be an analysis of mine expansion, trends in mine inflow, water balance, and trends in water quality.

TABLE 1

SURFACE WATER BASELINE, OPERATIONAL AND  
POSTMINING WATER QUALITY PARAMETER LISTField Measurements:

- \* - Water Levels or Flow
- \* - pH
- \* - Specific Conductivity (umhos/cm)
- \* - Temperature (C°)
- \* - Dissolved Oxygen (ppm) (perennial streams only)

Laboratory Measurements: (mg/l) (Major, minor ions and trace elements  
are to be analyzed in total and dissolved forms.)

- # \* - Total Settleable Solids
- # \* - Total Suspended Solids
- \* - Total Dissolved Solids
- \* - Total Hardness (as CaCO<sub>3</sub>)
- \* - Acidity (CaCO<sub>3</sub>)
- Aluminum (Al)
- Arsenic (As)
- Barium (Ba)
- Boron (B)
- \* - Carbonate (CO<sub>3</sub> -2)
- \* - Bicarbonate (HCO<sub>3</sub> -)
- Cadmium (Cd)
- \* - Calcium (Ca)
- \* - Chloride (Cl<sup>-</sup>)
- Chromium (Cr)
- Copper (Cu)
- Fluoride (F<sup>-</sup>)
- \* - Iron (Fe)
- Lead (Pb)
- \* - Magnesium (Mg)
- \* - Total Manganese (Mn)
- Mercury (Hg)
- Molybdenum (Mo)
- Nickel (Ni)
- Nitrogen: Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>)
- Nitrite (NO<sub>2</sub>)
- Nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub> -)
- \* - Potassium (K)
- Phosphate (PO<sub>4</sub> -3)
- Selenium (Se)
- \* - Sodium (Na)
- \* - Sulfate (SO<sub>4</sub> -2)
- Sulfide (S<sup>-</sup>)
- Zinc (Zn)
- \* - Oil and Grease
- \* - Cation-Anion Balance

Sampling Period:

- Baseline
- \*Operational, Postmining
- #Construction

ATTACHMENT A-1

Special Permit Conditions

Federal Conditions

- OSMRE 1. The permittee shall monitor cultural resource site 425v984 and the adjacent area for evidence of subsidence. If subsidence is imminent, further consultation with Utah DOGM, the State Historic Preservation Officer, and OSMRE regarding mitigation of the site will be required.
- OSMRE 2. All amounts due the United States, as determined in the initial judgment in Virginia Iron Coal and Coke V. Hodel, No. 85-0047 BY (W. D. Va.), shall be paid according to the judgment.
- USFS 1. No mining which could result in subsidence to the east escarpment of Quitchupah Canyon in Federal lease U-062453 shall take place without the specific consent of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U. S. Forest Service, pending results of the subsidence and resource monitoring for the longwall panels on the west escarpment.
- USFS 2. Prior to conducting any mining under the west escarpment of Quitchupah Canyon in Federal lease U-28297 (mining Blocks 1 and 2), the permittee shall institute a subsidence monitoring and control plan. This plan shall include an underground and surface survey coordinate system which is tied to the State Plane Coordinate System. Aerial photography of the entire permit area shall be covered by color infrared (CIR) photography as part of the data base. The permittee shall fly the area affected by mining, including the angle of draw, at a minimum of 5 year intervals to obtain CIR photographs which can be used to quantify subsidence effects on resources. One print of each exposure of baseline black and white and CIR photography and subsequent black and white and CIR photographs shall be provided to the Manti-LaSal and Fishlake National Forest supervisors (as appropriate), with photo index maps, and a map showing permanent monument locations. A copy of subsidence and hydrologic monitoring reports and results shall be provided to both National Forest supervisors and OSMRE.

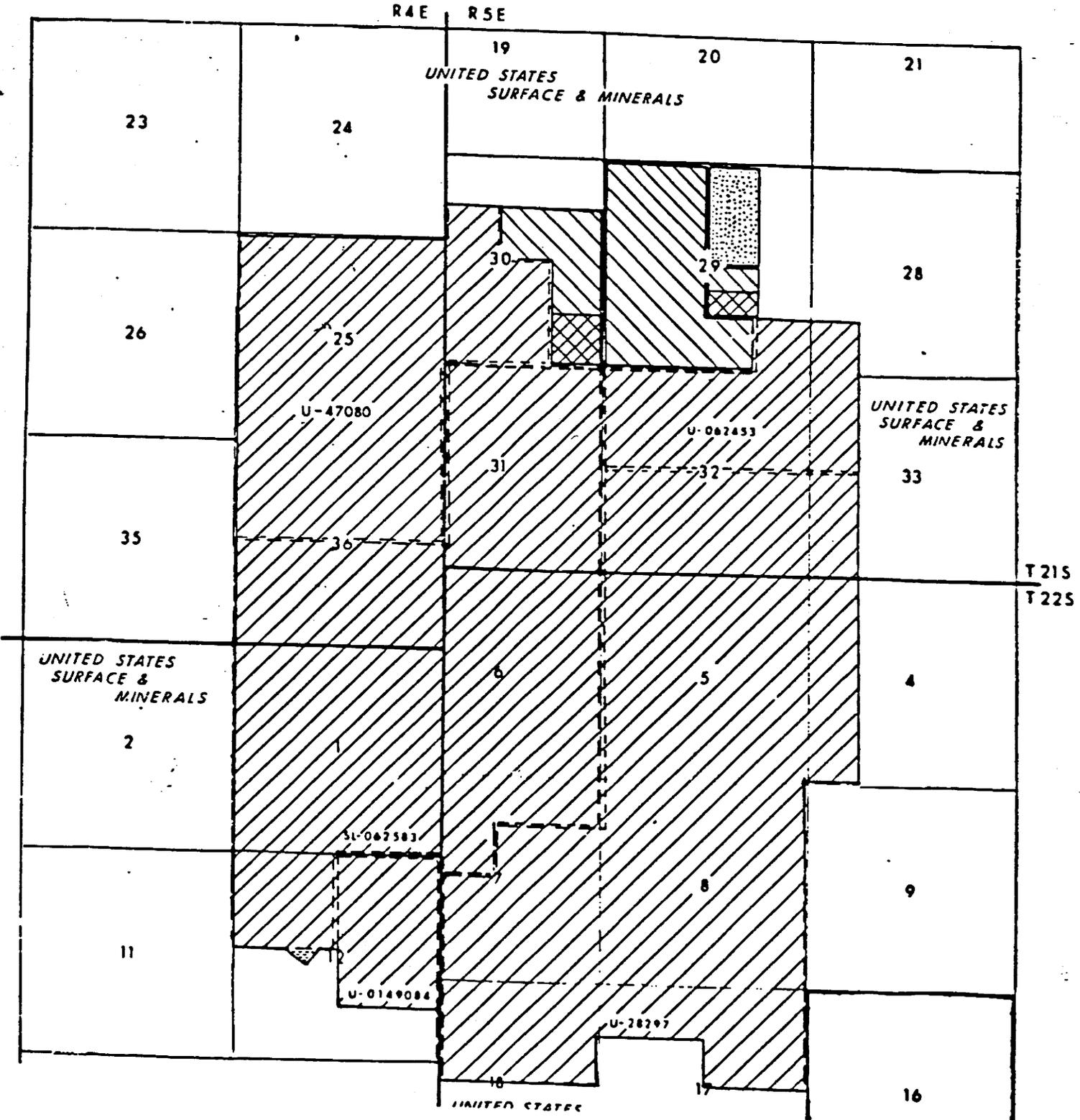
USFS

3. Within 60 days after the issuance of this permit, the permittee shall submit updated information for the Mining and Reclamation Plan which addresses the possibility of subsidence beneath Quitchupah Creek during the life of the mining operations. This shall include a plan for the mitigation of any adverse effects on the integrity of Quitchupah Creek. This updated information shall also include the permittee's commitment to submit, prior to abandonment of the access entries beneath Quitchupah Creek, a plan for protecting the integrity of the Creek from any adverse impacts of subsidence, using the best feasible technology. The information must be approved by OSMRE, Utah DOGM and the Manti-LaSal National Forest supervisor.

1179R-

# CONVULSION CANYON PERMIT AREA

SEVIER COUNTY, UTAH



FINDINGS DOCUMENT

SOUTHERN UTAH FUEL COMPANY  
Convulsion Canyon Mine  
ACT/041/002, Sevier County, Utah

0011-WIP

1986 JUN 11 AM 8 40

WESTERN TECHNICAL CENTER

March 12, 1986

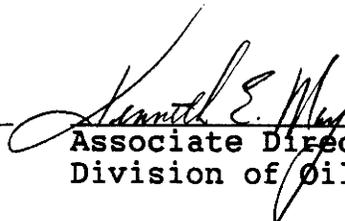
1. The Permit Application Package (PAP) is accurate and complete and all requirements of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (the "Act"), and the approved Utah State Program have been complied with (UMC 786.19[a]).
2. The applicant proposes acceptable practices for the reclamation of disturbed lands (PAP Vol 8, February 1984 Stipulation Response). These practices have been shown to be effective in the short-term; there are no long-term reclamation records utilizing native species in the western United States. Nevertheless, the regulatory authority has determined that reclamation, as required by the Act, can be feasibly accomplished under the PAP (see Technical Analysis [TA], Section UMC 817.111-.117, p. 37) (UMC 786.19[b]).
3. The assessment of the probable cumulative impacts of all anticipated coal mining in the general area on the hydrologic balance has been made by the regulatory authority. The mining operation proposed under the application has been designed to prevent damage to the hydrologic balance in the permit area and in the associated off-site areas (UMC 786.19[c]). (See Cumulative Hydrologic Impact Analysis (CHIA) Section, attached to this Findings Document.)
4. The proposed permit area is (UMC 786.19[d]):
  - A. Not included within an area designated unsuitable for underground coal mining operations (PAP, Volume 2, page 12).
  - B. Not within an area under study for designated lands unsuitable for underground coal mining operations (PAP, Volume 2, page 12).
  - C. Not on any lands subject to the prohibitions or limitations of 30 CFR 761.11(a) (national parks, etc.), 761.11(f) (public buildings, etc.) and 761.11(g) (cemeteries).
  - D. Within 100 feet of the outside right-of-way line of a public road, however, the road was in operation as a haul road prior to August 3, 1977 and is therefore covered under the definition of valid existing rights (UMC 761.5(b)[2]) (PAP, Volume 2, page 12).

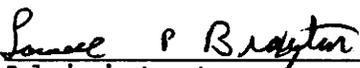
- E. Not within 300 feet of any occupied dwelling (PAP, Volume 2, page 12).
5. The issuance of a permit is in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act and implementing regulations (36 CFR 800) (UMC 786.19[e]). See letters from SHPO dated January 13, 1982, and January 19, 1984 attached to TA.
  6. The applicant has the legal right to enter and begin underground activities in the permit area through five Federal leases and one fee lease (see PAP, Volume 2, page 9; Volume 8, page 5) (UMC 786.19[f]).
  7. The applicant has shown that prior violations of applicable law and regulations have been corrected (PAP, Volume 3, page 16; Volume 8, page 4; DOGM NOV/CO Status Report, February 26, 1986) (UMC 786.19[g]).
  8. Southern Utah Fuel Company (SUFCO) is not delinquent in payment of fees for the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund for its active mining operation (Personal communication, John Sender, OSM Fee Compliance Specialist, March 7, 1986) (UMC 786.19[h]).
  9. The applicant does not control and has not controlled mining operations with a demonstrated pattern of willful violations of the Act of such nature, duration and with such resulting irreparable damage to the environment as to indicate an intent not to comply with the provisions of the Act (DOGM NOV/CO Status Report) (UMC 786.19[i]).
  10. Underground coal mining and reclamation operations to be performed under the permit will not be inconsistent with other such operations anticipated to be performed in areas adjacent to the proposed permit area (UMC 786.19[j]). No other mines are operational or have been proposed for the immediate vicinity.
  11. A detailed analysis of the proposed bond had been made. The bond estimate is attached to the TA. The DOGM has made appropriate adjustments to reflect costs which would be incurred by the State, if it was required to contract the final reclamation activities for the minesite. The bond in the amount of \$1,099,000.00 shall be posted (UMC 786.19[k]) with DOGM prior to final permit issuance. A preliminary bond in the amount of \$138,950.00 is currently on file.
  12. No lands designated as prime farmlands or alluvial valley floors occur on the permit area (PAP, Volume 4, 80 submittal, pages 67-71; 81 submittal, page 11, Volume 3, pages 197-199) (UMC 786.19[l]). See TA, Section 822.1-14, page 45 for a discussion of alluvial valley floors pertinent to the permit area.

13. The proposed postmining land-use of the permit area has been approved by the U. S. Forest Service (see letters attached to TA), the controller of the majority of the land surface in the permit area (see TA, Section UMC 817.133, page 42) (UMC 786.19[n]). The Fishlake National Forest accepted reclamation plans submitted by SUFCO on February 24, 1986, in a letter dated March 23, 1986.
14. The regulatory authority has made all specific approvals required by the Act, and the approved State Program (UMC 786.19[n]).
15. The proposed operation will not affect the continued existence of any threatened or endangered species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of their critical habitats (PAP, Volume 5, Vegetation and Soils Report, page 12; 1981 Supplement, page 5, Wildlife Assessment; 1981 Supplement, Exhibits 1 and 2, Volume 6, Avifauna, pages 8-9) (UMC 786.19[o]). The U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service has determined that the mine will have no effect on any listed Threatened or Endangered Species (see phone memo attached to TA).
16. All procedures for public participation required by the Act, and the approved Utah State Program have been complied with (UMC 786.23(a)[2]).

Prior to the permit taking effect, the applicant must forward a letter stating its compliance with the special stipulations in the permit and post the performance bond for reclamation activities.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Permit Supervisor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Associate Director, Mining  
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Administrator,  
Mineral Resource Development  
and Reclamation Program

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Director  
Division of Oil Gas and Mining

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant Attorney General  
Approved as to Form

## TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

Southern Utah Fuel Company  
Convulsion Canyon Mine  
ACT/041/002, Sevier County, Utah

March 12, 1986

### Introduction

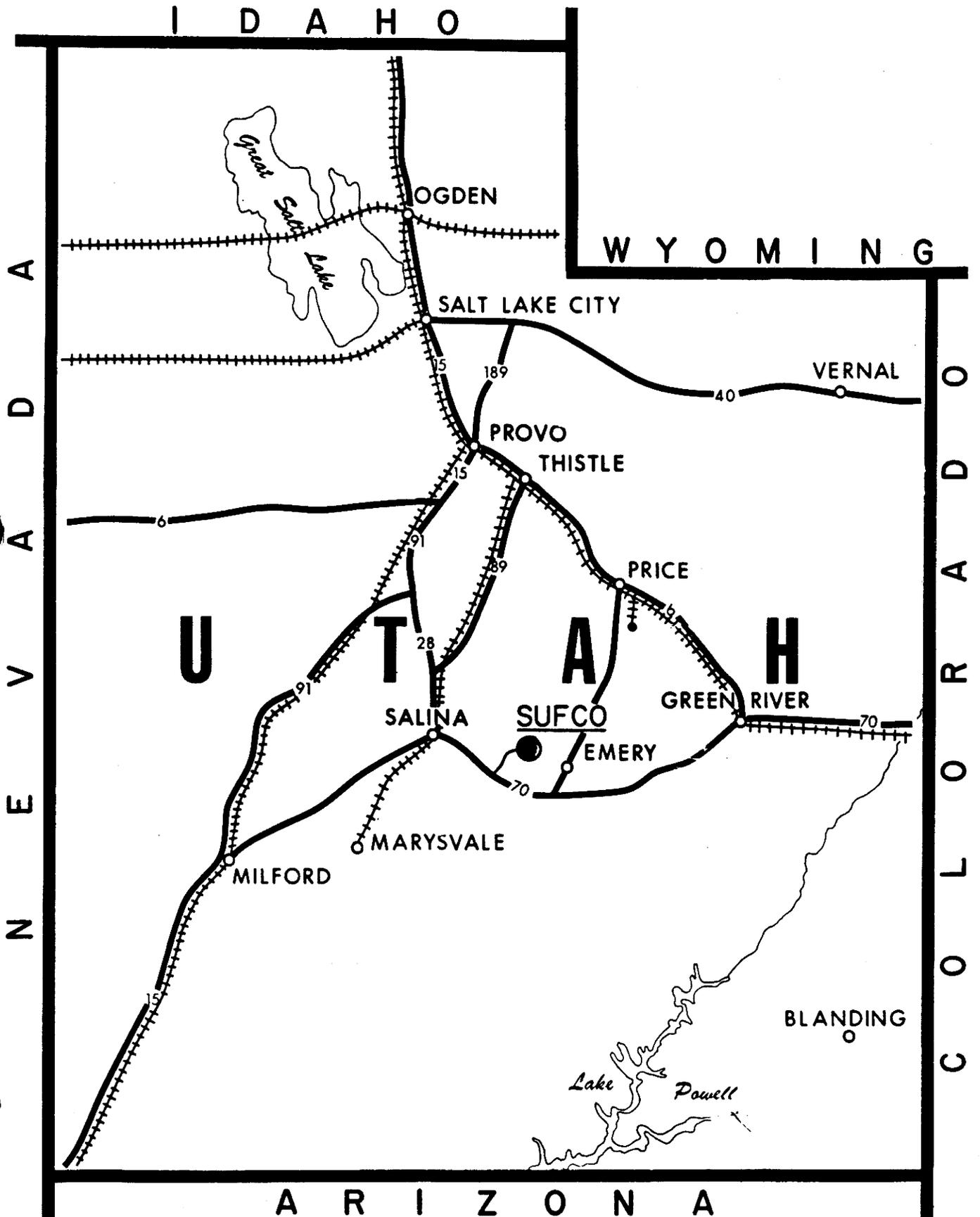
The Convulsion Canyon Mine is an existing underground mine operated by Southern Utah Fuel Company (Sufco), a subsidiary of Coastal States Energy Company of Houston, Texas. The mine is located approximately 30 miles east of Salina, Utah, with the surface facilities and access portal on U. S. Forest Service (USFS) land in East Spring Canyon, within Section 12, Township 22 South, Range 4 East, Salt Lake Baseline and Meridian (see map within this document for specific location).

The mine commenced operation in 1941, mining Federally-owned coal. The applicant currently holds five Federal and one Fee lease, for a total of 7,355 acres, of which 91 percent are Federally-owned. Total surface disturbance for surface facilities is approximately 17 acres, with no additional disturbances planned.

The original mine plan was submitted to the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOG M) in 1977. Additional information was submitted, and the mine plan was approved by DOGM pursuant to the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act on September 14, 1977. The USGS approved the plan on February 3, 1978. In October of 1979, Sufco submitted additional information to comply with the regulations of the newly implemented Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. The Office of Surface Mining (OSM) sent an Apparent Completeness Review (ACR) to the applicant in May 1980, which Sufco responded to in November 1980. A joint ACR was prepared by DOGM and OSM and sent to the applicant in June of 1981. The applicant responded to the review and submitted baseline data on a new Federal Lease (U-47080) in September 1981. DOGM submitted requests for additional completeness and technical information in March and June of 1983 to which the operator responded in April and July of 1983. The mine plan application was declared complete on July 18, 1983. Newspaper advertisement of the application has been published in the Salina Sun and Richfield Reaper beginning on August 3, 1983. Copies of the advertisements are attached to the Technical Analysis (TA).

Projected life of the mine is 26 years, with an average annual production of two million tons per year. Coal is being mined from the Upper Hiawatha coal seam. Room and pillar mining is the

GENERAL LOCATION MAP  
SUFACO MINE AREA



predominant mining method, but longwall mining will also be used on Lease U-47080. Coal is moved by underground conveyor from the face to the portal. From there it is shipped by truck to Salina or Levan, where it is further shipped to buyers by truck or rail. Current employment is approximately 300, with three times that number employed in support services in the surrounding area.

### Existing Environment

The lease area is in the Wasatch Plateau coal field which underlies a major portion of the Wasatch Plateau, the northeastern most high plateau in Utah. The major geologic formations of the permit area are the Price River, Blackhawk and North Horn formations. The strata which outcrops within and adjacent to the permit area consists of alternating clays, shales and sandstones which range from upper Cretaceous to Tertiary in age. The Blackhawk Formation is the coal bearing formation with three coal bearing seams present within the lower 200 feet of this formation: (1) the Upper Hiawatha Seam; (2) the Lower Hiawatha Seam; and (3) the Duncan Seam. The Upper Hiawatha Seam is (1) the only seam which is being mined, (2) has an average thickness of 13 feet, and (3) has an average strike and dip of N 45°E 2°NW. The overburden above the Upper Hiawatha Seam ranges from 0 feet at the coal outcrops to approximately 1,500 feet at Little Drum Mountain.

The majority of the area is gentle rolling surface that ends abruptly to the east and the south at steep cliffs cut by Convulsion Canyon and the North Fork of Quitchupah Canyon. Small scale faulting occurs throughout the permit area. Subsidence of the surface above areas that have been mined has occurred and will continue to occur, with no damage to structures or property expected. Tension cracks have also occurred in subsidence areas, but appear to have healed themselves within a year or two.

The mine permit area is in the drainage basin of Muddy Creek and ultimately tributary to the Colorado River. Muddy Creek receives runoff from the lease area by way of Convulsion Canyon and Quitchupah Creek. Several springs, seeps and runoff catchment basins also occur on the permit area. Water is introduced into the mine from faulting and fracturing of formations adjacent to and overlying the coal seam. Mine water is discharged into the North Fork of Quitchupah Creek at a rate of 600,000-750,000 gallons per day. No water treatment facilities are required for this water since water quality is good and meets effluent limitations.

Vegetation community types present include pinyon/juniper, ponderosa pine, fir, aspen, sagebrush/grass, black sagebrush and mountain brush. Surface facilities are located in former pinyon/juniper habitat.

Soils on the Wasatch Plateau are generally very shallow, sand to silty sand in texture, with high percolation rates. These soils are highly susceptible to wind erosion, but only slightly susceptible to water erosion. Mancos shale dominates the canyon bottoms within the permit area.

The majority of the land surface on the Sufco permit area is managed by the USFS under the multiple use concept. Current land uses include livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, timber and recreation.

#### UMC 817.11 Signs and Markers

##### Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The applicant has posted and maintained signs and markers as required by this section, and as specifically described below.

The applicant states that three identification signs are placed on the only possible vehicle access routes to the mine surface facilities area, two on a secondary road, the other on the main access road (PAP, Volume 2, p. 19).

Perimeter markers are properly placed in the permit area (PAP, Volume 8, November, 1983, Stipulation Response).

Three stream buffer zones are marked with signs according to the application (PAP, Volume 8, 1983 Completeness Response, p. 28a)--at the north ventilation entries above the North Fork of Quitchupah Creek as well as near the pumphouse and leachfield in East Spring Canyon. The signs identify the areas as buffer zones and prohibit disturbance.

No surface blasting is anticipated for the remainder of the mine life, so no blasting signs or markers are required (PAP, Volume 7, 1981 Completeness Review Response).

The only topsoil stored at the minesite at this time is from the sediment pond area (see section UMC 817.21-.25). This storage area is properly marked. The applicant has committed to mark any future topsoil storage piles with "Topsoil Storage Area" signs (PAP Volume 2, page 19).

##### Compliance

Applicant complies with this section.

##### Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.13 Casing and Sealing of Exposed Underground Openings:  
General

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

Drill holes are plugged from bottom to top with a slurry mixture of 5.2-5.5 gallons of water per bag of cement upon completion of drilling operations.

Seals will be installed in all openings as soon as mining is completed (see UMC 817.15). Inactive openings (ventilation entries) are presently fenced and posted and will be sealed after mining.

Compliance

The plugged drill holes prevent vertical fluid migration.

No acid or other toxic drainage enters surface or subsurface drainage from the mine openings. Fencing and "Danger" signs ensure the safety of people, livestock, fish, wildlife and machinery in the permit area and adjacent area. Upon completion of mining all openings will be sealed.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.14 Casing and Sealing of Underground Openings: Temporary

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

Mine entries which are temporary openings are used to facilitate air flow to mine workings. They are protected by locked steel mesh gates and are posted with "Danger" signs. They are periodically inspected by mine personnel to ensure proper maintenance.

No drill holes, shafts or exposed underground openings for underground development waste exist on the property as temporary (or permanent) openings.

Compliance

Mine entries for ventilation purposes are constructed to prevent access into the mine and are identified as hazardous.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.15 Casing and Sealing of Underground Openings: Permanent Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

Seals will be installed in all entries as soon as mining is completed and the mine is to be abandoned. The seals will be situated at least 25 feet inside the portal mouth entry. Proximal loose material will be removed prior to installation and the seals will be made of solid concrete blocks and mortar. The construction technique will be to build vertically succeeding layers of blocks in a pattern perpendicular to that of the proceeding row. An interlaced pilaster will be constructed in the center for support. The opening will then be backfilled with noncombustible material and sloped to match the cut slope at the portal entry.

Compliance

Access to the mine workings will be prevented and drainage will be prevented from entering ground or surface waters.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.21-.25 Topsoil

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The soils found in the Sufco permit area were formed from weathering of clay, sandstone and limestone at an elevation of approximately 6,900 to 9,100 feet. The topography is steep V-shaped canyons with horizontal sandstone ledges.

Four soil orders were found to exist in the area. They are Alfisols, Entisols, Inceptisols and Mollisols. Alfisols were formed on side slopes ranging from 15 to 35 percent. Predominant vegetation consists of Douglas fir, spruce, black sagebrush and wildrye. Entisols and Inceptisols were formed on steep slopes of 60 percent or greater. Predominant vegetation is pinyon-juniper, black sagebrush, grasses and mountain mahogany. Mollisols are found on lesser slopes ranging from 0-15 percent. Typical vegetation is ponderosa, aspen, mountain mahogany, rabbitbrush and pinyon-juniper (See Volume 5, pp. 13-35, Map B).

The pH and EC of the soil range from approximately 5.3 to 8.6 and 0.24 to 9.6 millimhos, respectively. Soil textures are from sandy loam to clay. The A horizon ranges from as little as two inches thick in the Alfisols, Entisols and Inceptisols to as deep as 12 inches thick in the Mollisols (See Volume 5 tables 37-59).

Erosion hazards range from slight to severe for both disturbed and undisturbed soils depending on the degree of slope and the type and extent of disturbance (See Volume 5, pp. 13-35).

The area of surface facility disturbance consists of 17 acres of which all but the sedimentation pond occurred prior to the enactment of Public Law 95-87. Due to this fact only topsoil from the sedimentation pond area was removed and stockpiled for use at the time of final reclamation. To supplement the topsoil available on-site, the applicant has proposed to supplement approximately 13,000 cubic yards (Volume 8, 1983, Completeness Response p. 30) of soil material from the present mine facility pad (Volume 8, Draft Stipulation Response 817.21-25, November 1983, Stipulations and Stipulation Responses). Samples of this soil material have been taken and analytical data presented in the PAP, Volume 2, Exhibit 7, give no indication of any toxic substances present.

Although not anticipated, should additional disturbance necessitate topsoil stockpiling a plan will be submitted for approval prior to such disturbance (Volume 8, 1983 Completeness Response, page 31).

The soil material will be collected into a pile during the recontouring process and spread to a uniform thickness of approximately six inches. While the supplemental soil material is being collected, samples will be taken to determine if fertilization is needed. This is a standard practice intended to determine precise fertilization requirements at the time of reclamation (Volume 8, Draft Stipulation Response 817.21.-25, November 1983 Stipulations and Stipulation Responses).

Prior to topsoil redistribution, regraded land will be scarified by a ripper-equipped tractor. The surface will be ripped to a depth of 12 inches in order to reduce surface compaction, provide a roughened surface assuring topsoil adherence and to promote vegetational root penetration. After grading, topsoil will be redistributed in a manner that will insure a uniform thickness of six inches. Compaction of redistributed topsoil will be minimized by discing and/or ripping (Volume 8, 1983 Completeness Response, page 18).

#### Compliance

Applicant complies with these sections.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.41 Hydrologic Balance: General Requirements

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

This section gives a brief synopsis of the major proposals to provide protection to surface and groundwaters.

The applicant has proposed in their mine plan methods by which mining activities will be conducted to minimize changes to the hydrologic balance within and adjacent to the mine plan area. Those proposals have been examined for completeness with respect to the established mining regulations throughout this section and the following sections, UMC 817.41-.57 and 822.1-.14. A more detailed discussion of the proposals will be presented in the following hydrologic sections along with a summary of how the proposal complies with the regulation.

The applicant proposes to control surface runoff from disturbed and undisturbed areas by using a combination of diversions, berms, channels, culverts and sedimentation ponds as discussed under Sections UMC 817.43-.46 and 817.49. In most instances, undisturbed area drainage will be separated from disturbed area drainage, except for 25.4 acres on the west slope of the canyon where precipitous slopes make it impractical to utilize diversion structures. Here, the undisturbed area drainage will be routed along with the disturbed area drainage and through the sedimentation pond prior to being discharged from the mine plan area as discussed in Section UMC 817.43 and 817.46.

Surface water monitoring plans have been implemented and will continue to operate to detect any impacts from mining operations on the surface water system as discussed under UMC 817.52.

Impacts to ground water systems have been and will continue to be analyzed through on-going studies. Monitoring and sampling will help the applicant keep impacts to a minimum by detecting changes in water quality or quantity that could result from mining. Plans illustrating the monitoring schedule and tallies showing the quality and quantity of water at sampling sites have been supplied in the mine plan.

The applicant has suggested plans to ensure that receiving streams will be in compliance with applicable State and Federal water quality regulations as discussed in Section UMC 817.46.

Riprap sizing and maximum allowable velocity calculations have been performed and submitted to the regulatory authorities for various areas where channel velocities are excessive. Plans to protect stream channels utilizing the calculated size riprap have been implemented. Other channel sections constructed in bedrock will not require riprap.

The applicant has proposed and implemented preventative measures such as chemical testing of water, soil and rock material and utilizing hydrologic structures has and will prevent contamination to the hydrologic system from any acid- or toxic-forming materials.

#### Compliance

The operator has proposed designs utilizing best technology control practices to minimize changes to the prevailing hydrologic balance in both the permit and adjacent areas. The following sections (UMC 817.42-.57) describe specific design details for the hydrologic facilities proposed.

The applicant's proposals will meet the general requirements for this section when the stipulations in the following sections are met.

#### Stipulations

None.

#### UMC 817.42 Water Quality Standards and Effluent Limitations

##### Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The applicant proposes to meet water quality standards and effluent limitations by routing and treating, in approved treatment facilities (sedimentation ponds, underground sump, silt fences and straw bales), all drainage from the disturbed surface and from the underground workings prior to discharge off the permit area. A two-stage sedimentation system, consisting of a concrete primary settling basin and a large capacity sediment pond, will treat the drainage from 12.7 of the estimated 17 acres (see pages 1 and 5) of disturbed area upon which the surface facilities are located. Alternative sediment control structures treat drainage for the areas detailed below (approximately 2 acres) and the remainder of the estimated 17 acres are actually undisturbed. The reader is referred to Section UMC 817.46 for more detail. Three small areas for which alternative control measures are implemented are as follows:

Area	Acres	10-Year, 24 Hour		Alternative Treatment
		Runoff Volume (AF)	Peak Flow (cfs)	
1. South End of Parking Lot	0.97	0.09	1.10	Silt Fence & Berm
2. Main Mine Fan Area	0.23	0.02	0.24	Silt Fence & Straw Bale
3. Substation Pad	0.39	0.03	0.40	Silt Fence & Straw Bale

These data quantify the small runoff volume expected from the 10-year, 24-hour precipitation event (i.e., 0.14 ac-ft). Areas 1 and 2 would require extensive regrading to route the drainage to the pond and area 3 is a very unstable area with a history of slumping which necessitates draining the area rapidly to reduce this potential for failure. Drainage from all three areas will be monitored monthly during the snowmelt runoff season and during major precipitation events to continually demonstrate the effectiveness of the alternate treatment facilities. The applicant has committed to this sampling and reports will be submitted quarterly to the Division for review.

If after review of this data, the Regulatory Authority determines these alternative control measures are not effective, the applicant must submit plans for routing and treating this drainage in a sediment pond.

Due to site constraints, the ponds must be removed and reclaimed prior to the completion of final reclamation. The applicant has proposed a plan of benching the fill and diverting runoff from the fill in trapezoidal ditches one foot deep with 3:1 side slopes and a six foot bottom width and mulching at 3,500 lbs wood cellulose per acre to provide sediment control during reclamation. See discussion under Section UMC 817.56.

Drainage from underground workings is treated prior to discharge using an underground collection and sump system and does not flow to the sedimentation pond system. The mine water is discharged into the North Fork of Quitcupah Creek. The discharges from the sedimentation pond outlet and the mine discharge points are monitored monthly and are currently permitted under NPDES permit number UT-0022918.

Drainage from the undisturbed area west of the surface facilities is not diverted from the disturbed area due to site constraints and results in the mixing of the two flows. These are treated and monitored at the sedimentation pond with quarterly reports submitted to the Division to insure compliance with the limitations of UMC 817.42(a)(7).

### Compliance

Although historically there have been instances of discharges from the sedimentation system exceeding limitations, several design changes and improvements in the drainage plan at the minesite have been implemented. These are discussed more completely under UMC 817.46. It is the regulatory authority's opinion that these changes have the potential to eliminate any violation of pollution limitations that were seen in the past. Data collected from August 1983 through January 1986 indicates the sedimentation system is effective in reducing the suspended sediment concentrations discharging from the pond to levels below the current effluent limitations. The data submitted resulted in only one effluent limitation violation during this period. The limitation for Total Suspended Solids was exceeded following the separation of the spillway riser from the spillway barrel due to ice formation and subsequent lifting of the pipe. This allowed drainage to discharge at the lower elevation and effectively eliminated the opportunity for the sediment pond to function correctly. The Regulatory Authority feels this was an isolated emergency condition and is not reflective of the sedimentation system's ability to perform effectively. The applicant's proposal will be in compliance with this section when the stipulation of this section has been met.

### Stipulation 817.42-(1)-RS/OSM

1. The permittee shall monitor the drainage from Areas 1, 2 and 3 in order to demonstrate the effectiveness of the alternative sediment treatment measures. The data shall be submitted to the R. A. for review quarterly. If the R. A. notifies the permittee that the alternative controls are not in compliance, the permittee shall submit to the R. A. within 30 days of such notice, a plan for treating these areas in a sedimentation pond, and within 120 days of such notice shall achieve compliance with applicable standards.

### UMC 817.43 Diversions and Conveyance of Overland Flow, Shallow Ground-Water Flow and Ephemeral Streams

#### Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The control of the drainage at the site is achieved using a system of temporary diversions and culverts to divert undisturbed (areas not affected by mining operations) drainage from the disturbed area, a mine yard drainage system which collects surface flow and routes it to the sedimentation system, and two large culverts that ultimately connect to divert the two major drainages (East Spring Canyon and Mud Spring Hollow) beneath the fill upon which the surface facilities are located. The system is best depicted on Map 83-2 of Volume 8. Basins draining to the respective structures can also be found on Exhibit 9-9 of Volume 2. The

predicted peak flow was calculated for each diversion using University of Kentucky's SEDIMOT II computer model. The results of these analyses are summarized below with the values presented by Sufco in the MRP. Output copies from the model are included in Appendix I.

	Drainage Area (ac)		10-year, 24-hour Peak Flow (cfs)		Discharge Capacity of Diversion Ditch Or Culvert (cfs)
	DOGM	SUFCA	DOGM	SUFCA	
1. Contributing Basin West (CBW)	25.8	25.4	10.8	9.5	Ditch = 15.0 20" pipe = 9.1
2. Contributing Basin East (CBE)	16.1	14.9	4.1	5.5	6.3
3. Substation Pad Undisturbed Ditch	6.9	6.9	1.75	1.44	1.72
4. Substation Pad	0.39	0.19	0.40	0.6	6.3
5. South Parking Lot	0.95	0.97	1.1	1.65	8.81
6. CBW to Pipe #5	11.48	11.5	5.81	8.71	8.2

	Drainage Area (ac)		10-year, 24-hour Peak Flow (cfs)		Discharge Capacity of Diversion Ditch Or Culvert (cfs)
	DOGM	SUFCA	DOGM	SUFCA	
7. Undisturbed Area North of ATOF to ESC Bypass Culvert	1.8	1.88	0.91	0.91	1.26
8. Undisturbed Area North of ATOF to MSH Bypass Culvert	18.4	18.4	3.78	5.67	5.67
9. Main Mine Fan Diversion to 6" Pipe	0.197	0.23	0.194	0.176	1.26

The capacity for each diversion was determined using either USBR culvert nomographs or Manning's Equation at minimum slope. All diversions were sized using a 10-year, 24-hour precipitation design event and include at least 0.3 foot free board. There are no proposed permanent diversions at the site. All diversions will be regraded and reclaimed following cessation of operation. From the above table, we can see that in nearly all cases the diversions are over designed for capacity. It should be noted that the drainage from CBW does not all drain to the 20 inch pipe or the sediment pond access ditch, but rather a significant amount flows across the yard and is collected in the mine yard drainage system. The apparently under designed 20 inch pipe is, therefore, more than adequate to handle the expected flow. The regulatory authority feels the calculation for the substation undisturbed diversion ditch capacity of 1.72 cfs is within acceptable error (two percent).

The second stage of analysis included calculation of maximum expected velocity (or exit velocity for culverts) which occurs at maximum slope for the diversion. From these values a riprap size required can be determined to prevent scour and excessive erosion. The following table summarizes the expected velocities with corresponding riprap sizes required and the proposed sizes by the applicant. Again, the reader is referred to Map 83-2 for location of diversions.

Diversion	Slope (%)	Velocity (fps)		Riprap Size (inches)	
		DOGM	SUFCO	DOGM	SUFCO
1. CBE Road:					
Section A	29	5.5	5.44	5"	5"
Section B	24	5.14	5.06	4"	4"
Section C	6	3.2	3.16	1.5"	1.5"
2. CBW to 20" Culvert	13.8	11.5	11.6	19"	19"
3. Sediment Pond Access:					
Section A	38	4.34	4.25	3"	3"
Section B	38	8.29	8.28	10"	10"
Section C	20	6.31	6.30	6"	6"
4. Pipe #5	15	10.30	9.55	13"	48"
5. Undisturbed Area North of ATOF	4	3.91	3.91	2"	2"
6. CBE 18" Bypass Culvert	13.5	6.02	6.02	4"	5"

7. Substation Pad Undisturbed Ditch	2	2.15	2.15	1"	1"
8. South Parking Lot	20	5.1	5.22	4"	4"
9. East Road Continuance:					
Section A	50	10.06	9.98	14"	14"
Section B	36.5	8.93	8.88	11"	11"
Section C	15.0	6.17	6.14	5"	5"

---

The above table shows that the applicant has correctly calculated the expected velocities for each diversion (or section of diversion) and has proposed adequate riprap for scour protection for each diversion.

#### Compliance

The applicant complies with the requirements of this section.

#### Stipulations

None.

#### UMC 817.44 Stream Channel Diversions

##### Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The placement of the fill upon which the surface facilities are located required the diversion of two intermittent streams. These are the East Spring Canyon Creek (drainage area of 4.8 mi<sup>2</sup>) to the northeast and Mud Spring Hollow Creek (drainage area of 3.08 mi<sup>2</sup>) to the northwest of the minesite. Both are temporary diversions and were sized to pass the 10-year, 24-hour event as required by (b)(2) of this section.

Drainage from these two basins is diverted by means of a culvert system placed in the fill. The East Spring Canyon drainage (ESC) is diverted into a 72-inch CMP culvert. The Mud Spring Hollow (MSH) drainage is collected by a 42-inch culvert which connects to the 72-inch culvert at a distance of 180 feet forming a junction near the washbay. The reader is referred to Map 83-2 for clarification. The 72-inch culvert runs the length of the fill to the top of the fill slope where a transition to a 48-inch culvert occurs. The dramatically increased slope of this culvert (51 percent slope, see Merrick, 1979 Hydraulic Calculations, Vol. 2) results in the necessary capacity to handle the flow from the 72-inch culvert. This 48-inch culvert is located along the slope of fill and beneath the sedimentation pond and embankment. The discharge velocity of the outlet (25.8 fps) is dissipated by the use of a stilling basin with an embankment of Class I (30-inch) riprap.

The analysis for this system included calculation of this peak runoff from the two basins using SEDIMOT II. Copies of the model output are included in the appendix. The culverts were then checked for capacity with existing headwater depth. The ESC 72-inch culvert was found to be slightly over designed with a capacity of approximately 270 cfs at a headwall of 7.1 feet. The applicant's peak flow was calculated to be 247 cfs, while SEDIMOT II predicted 161 cfs. The MSH culvert was determined to have a capacity of 150.5 cfs using a headwater depth of 11.2 feet and paving in the pipe to improve the culvert efficiency. The applicant's peak flow value (147 cfs) was determined to be within nine percent of the SEDIMOT II calculation and, therefore, will be acceptable by the regulatory authority.

Reclamation of the ephemeral stream channels for East Spring Creek and Mud Spring Hollow include the following:

1. Regrading the slope of the present fill face to establish a stable slope. Approximately 21,000 cubic yards of fill will be moved to the bench where the office building is presently situated. See cross-sections J through N in the 1986 SH & B Report.
2. Excavation of the fill material from the location of the proposed stream channel (see Plate #2 of the 1986 SH & B Report). Construction of the stream channel excavated in bedrock along its length.
3. Channel configuration will be of a trapezoidal shape channel configuration and profile is shown in the following table:

<u>Reach</u>	<u>Length</u> (FT)	<u>Side Slope</u> (H:V)	<u>Bottom Width</u> (FT)	<u>Gradient</u> (%)	<u>Channel Depth</u> (FT)
1	320	1:1	Varies	2.5	7.0
2	95	1:1	17.5	10.0	6.0
3	235	1:1	17.5	6.5	6.0
4	410	1:1	17.5	2.0	7.5
5	70	0.75:1	10.0	57.1	5.5
6	152	0.75:1	10.0	54.6	5.5
7	104	1:1	17.5	35.6	5.5
8	79	1:1	17.5	15.1	5.5

4. The design capacity of the stream channel is 1250 CFS.

5. Flow depth varies from 2.06 feet in reach 7 to 6.09 feet in reach 4. Velocities in the steep bedrock sections reaches 5 & 6, range from 40 to 45 feet per second. These velocities drop to approximately 30 feet per second upon entering the natural bedrock channel, which approaches naturally occurring velocities in the same reach because of the steepness of the channel slope.
6. A small (20 ft X 30 ft) stilling basin located at the outlet of the reconstructed channel and the natural channel (see Plate #2) would be used to reduce velocities in the smaller return period storms and runoff events. In storms greater than the 50 year-24 hour return-period it will have little affect.
7. Drainage from side channels and from portions of the surface of the regraded fill will be collected in two collector ditches. Both ditches will be trapezoidal in shape. The east collector ditch will be configured as shown in the following table:

<u>Reach</u>	<u>Length</u> (FT)	<u>Side Slope</u> (H:V)	<u>Bottom Width</u> (FT)	<u>Gradient</u> (%)	<u>Channel Depth</u> (FT)
B-1	675	1:1	2.0	1.0	2.0
B-2	440	1:1	2.0	6.0	2.0
B-3	75	1:1	3.0	27.0	3.0
B-4	340	1:1	2.0	12.5	2.0
B-5	325	1:1	2.0	52.6	3.0

The west collector ditch will be configured as shown in the following table:

<u>Reach</u>	<u>Length</u> (FT)	<u>Side Slope</u> (H:V)	<u>Bottom Width</u> (FT)	<u>Gradient</u> (%)	<u>Channel Depth</u> (FT)
A-1	375	1:1	2.0	2.0	2.0
A-2	150	1:1	2.0	2.0	2.0
A-3	275	1:1	3.0	1.8	3.0
A-4	175	1:1	3.0	1.5	3.0
A-5	360	1:1	2.0	50.1	3.0

Discharge to be conveyed at the lower end, in the east collector ditch, is 17.1 CFS. Discharge at the lower end of the west collector ditch is 29.3 CFS.

8. The regraded mine site will consist of a wood cellulose fiber slurry applied at a rate of 3,500 pounds per acre.

### Compliance

Review of the plans for the existing temporary diversions, show that the applicant is in compliance with the requirements of subparagraph b(2) of this section.

The plans to reclaim the stream channels are in compliance with the remaining sections of UMC 817.44 and do not raise concerns in other areas because all fill material will be removed from the channel area and be diverted around the fill in a bedrock channel.

### Stipulations

None.

### UMC 817.45 Sediment Control Measures

#### Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The disturbed area drainage will be controlled and treated using a two stage sedimentation system, berms, diversions, silt fences and strawbales. Erosion of ditches and exit points of culverts will be minimized as riprap or channel linings have been proposed for all of these structures. Revegetation by seeding, shrub planting and hydromulching of four disturbed areas, when fully successful, will further minimize sediment contributions to the Quitchupah Creek drainage system. These four areas include the slope of the facilities fill adjacent to the sediment pond, the slope between the substation road and the surface facilities fill, the coal slide areas and the downstream face of the sediment pond embankment. Undisturbed drainage (i.e., drainage from lands not affected by mining) will be diverted from the disturbed area for all but one area. Site constraints (steep unstable slope) preclude the construction of a diversion to divert the undisturbed slope immediately west of the surface facilities. This slope drainage will flow across the disturbed area and consequently to the sedimentation system which has been designed to include and treat this runoff.

The placement of gravel and a drainage system consisting of two drop inlets and 12 inch culverts at the substation pad will reduce the overland flow length and minimize sediment production at that site.

### Compliance

The applicant is utilizing the best technology currently available to meet effluent limitations. The applicant's proposal is sufficient to comply with the requirements of this section.

Stipulations

None

UMC 817.46 Hydrologic Balance: Sedimentation Ponds

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The sedimentation pond system at the Convulsion Canyon Mine consists of a small concrete primary settling basin in series with a sedimentation pond equipped with a drop inlet primary spillway and a trapezoidal emergency spillway. The sedimentation system designed by Valley Engineering and presented in Volume 6 was implemented at the site. The plan by Merrick and Company presented in Volume 2 was not used and is presumably included in the plan for background calculations utilized by Valley Engineering in their design. Map 83-2 in Volume 8 can also assist the reader with interpretation of this discussion.

The drainage from 12.6 acres of disturbed area and 25.4 acres of undisturbed area is routed to the lower sediment pond located at the base of the surface facilities fill. The 9.8 acres of surface facilities fill and the majority of the 25.4 acres of CBW drainage are also routed to a concrete settling basin at the south end of the fill prior to discharge to the sediment pond. The drainage from that area of the top of fill (ATOF) where the surface facilities are located is collected by a mine yard drainage system consisting of well spaced drop drains and 10 inch corrugated metal pipe and routed to the concrete settling basin. This system reduces the flow length for the drainage on the fill and will, therefore, minimize erosion and production of sediment from the fill. The concrete settling basin has a capacity of 0.032 ac-ft and has a sloping bottom to facilitate removal of sediment by a front-end loader. Discharge from this basin is through 9 four-inch PVC pipes in connection with a weir which acts as an oil and grease skimmer. The discharge is then routed to the lower sediment pond by a 24 inch CMP for additional detention time treatment.

The drainage from the slope of the fill (SOF) adjacent to the sediment pond and a portion of the undisturbed flow from the CBW is routed to the sediment pond by a ditch along the sediment pond access road. Discussion of the adequacy of this ditch is found under Section UMC 817.43.

The sedimentation pond is an embankment type with the embankment height 22 feet to the top and 18 feet to the crest of the emergency spillway. The pond was cleaned and resurveyed in August 1983. Using these data, the Division developed a Stage-Storage curve for the pond (see Appendix). This curve shows a volume of 1.56 ac-ft to the elevation of the primary spillway, 1.79 ac-ft to the crest of the emergency spillway and 2.29 ac-ft to a point two feet below the top of the embankment.

The pond is equipped with a 12 inch drop inlet (morning glory) spillway at an elevation of 7,417 feet. This discharge structure is equipped with an oil skimmer at the inlet and a decanting valve at an elevation of 7,412 feet which is above the predicted maximum sediment storage volume. A trapezoidal emergency spillway three feet deep with a bottom width of 11 feet and 2:1 slide slopes is located on the east side of the embankment at an elevation of 7,418 feet which results in a 1.0 foot difference between the two spillways. The primary spillway 12 inch pipe discharges directly into this heavily riprapped spillway.

No mine water is routed to the sediment pond, rather it is treated by detention in a separate sump system within the mine and discharged into the drainage basin to the east of the surface facilities.

The top width of the embankment is 12 feet and the combined slopes are 1:5 with the upstream slope 1:3 and the downstream 1:2. Properly designed anti seep cutoff collars are installed on the primary discharge pipe and the East Spring Canyon - Mud Spring Hollow diversion culvert which both extend through the dam embankment. The pond has been certified by a registered professional engineer (M. Cloward, #4522, Utah) and the applicant has committed to quarterly inspections of the pond with reports submitted to the Division for review in February, May, August and November.

The sediment pond was technically analyzed by the Division as described in the following narrative. The peak flows for the 10-year, 24-hour and 25-year, 24-hour precipitation events were calculated for the three areas draining to the sediment pond using the SEDIMOT II computer model. Copies of the output results are included in the appendix. The capacity of the primary and emergency spillways were calculated using the minimum value for weir, orifice and pipe flow equations and broad crested spillway hydraulics, respectively. The procedure followed was outlined by Haan, 1981. The following table summarizes the results:

	10-year, 24-hour Peak Flow (cfs)		25-year, 24-hour Peak Flow (cfs)		Primary <sup>1</sup> Spillway Capacity (cfs)	Emergency <sup>2</sup> Spillway Capacity (cfs)
	DOGM	SUFCA	DOGM	SUFCA		
ATOF	8.1	9.2	10.9	13.6	NA	NA
SOF	2.2	1.9	3.0	2.8	NA	NA

CBW	10.8	9.5	16.5	15.8	NA	NA
TOTAL	21.1	20.6	30.4	32.2	3.78	96.04

<sup>1</sup> At water elevation 7,418 feet (or one foot head). Calculated as described in text.

<sup>2</sup> At water elevation 7,420 feet (or two feet head).

As can be seen from the above table, the combined primary and emergency spillways are significantly over designed to handle the 25-year, 24-hour event. The applicant has presented calculations that predict the 10-year, 24-hour event runoff to be 1.10 ac-ft. The capacity of the pond at the inlet of the primary spillways is 1.58 ac-ft and 60 percent of the maximum sediment storage is 0.408 ac-ft. Therefore, at such time when the 60 percent sediment level is reached, the pond capacity is still sufficient to contain the predicted runoff (1.58 AF - 0.41 AF = 1.17 AF) and preclude outflow through the emergency spillway as required under subsection (g). The applicant has installed sediment level markers to indicate this level and has committed to clean out as required under subsection (h).

The applicant proposes a sediment storage volume of 0.035 ac-ft for each acre of disturbed area that passes through the concrete settling basin and 0.1 ac-ft per acre of disturbed area that does not pass through this additional sediment control measure. This basin facilitates the settling of the larger particles and easy removal for disposal. The applicant proposes to mix the accumulated sediment (consisting primarily of coal fines) with coal for shipment and sale. The applicant has committed to cleaning the pond prior to sediment level reaching the maximum capacity allowed. As required by subsection (b)(2) of UMC 817.46, the applicant has provided empirical data to demonstrate the ability of the concrete sedimentation basin to reduce the sediment delivered to the lower main sediment pond by 90 percent. The regulation requires that the reduction in sediment volume required be from 0.1 acre-foot per acre to 0.035 acre-foot per acre or 65 percent.

The data provided were acquired by cleaning the sediment pond of accumulated sediment after 32 months of pond operation. This volume of sediment removed was 0.125 acre-foot. We can conservatively estimate the reduction of sediment volume as the result of the concrete basin by assuming all the sediment is from the 12 acres of disturbed area (surface facilities) and not attempt to partition the sediment removed into contributions by the Contributing Basin West (CBW) and slope of fill (SOF). We also assume an equal time baseline for each the 0.1 AF/acre and 0.125 AF values by dividing by 32 months:

Required by regulation:

$$\frac{(0.1 \text{ AF/acre}) (12 \text{ acres}) (\frac{12 \text{ months}}{32 \text{ Months}})}{(\frac{12 \text{ months}}{\text{year}})} = 0.45 \text{ AF/year}$$

Actual sediment volume delivered:

$$\frac{(0.125 \text{ acre-feet}) (\frac{12 \text{ months}}{32 \text{ months}})}{(\frac{12 \text{ months}}{\text{year}})} = 0.0469 \text{ AF/year}$$

Thus, the percent reduction in sediment volume is:

$$100\% - \frac{(0.0469 \text{ AF/year})}{(0.45 \text{ AF/year})} \times 100 = 89.58\%$$

### Compliance

The sedimentation system at the Convulsion Canyon Mine has had a history of failure with several samples exceeding effluent limitations in the past. During the course of this review, however, several changes have been made to upgrade the system. These changes are:

1. Increasing the elevation of the primary spillway from an elevation of 7,411 feet to 7,417 feet. This has increased the storage capacity of the pond nearly one ac-ft and will accordingly increase the detention time in the pond before outflow begins.
2. Routing nearly 32 acres of undisturbed drainage away from the disturbed area and sediment system that previously contributed to the pond which was not designed to contain that drainage. With the flow from these areas (calculated at 0.45 ac-ft) contributing to the pond, the pond was certain not to perform as expected.
3. Treating three small areas with alternative sediment control measures which reduce the disturbed area drainage the pond must treat. These areas are discussed under Section UMC 817.42.

### Stipulations

None. See Stipulation 817.42-(1)-RS.

UMC 817.47 Hydrologic Balance: Discharge Structures

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

All diversions at the minesite were fully discussed under Section UMC 817.43. Discharges for the sedimentation system are controlled by energy dissipators, stilling basins or riprapped channels. Velocities were calculated using Manning's Equation for open channel flow using the slope of the structure just prior to the discharge point. The following table summarizes the expected maximum velocities and the proposed energy dissipator for these structures. The reader is referred to Sheet 2, Volume 6, Valley Engineering report for location of these discharge points.

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Structure	Velocity (fps)	Required Riprap Size	Proposed Riprap Size or Structure
1. Emergency Spillway	10.44	14 inches	Stilling basin and 30 inch riprap with filter layer.
2. Primary Spillway	9.3	12 inches	30 inch riprap.
3. 24 inch CMP from Concrete Basin	28.4	greater than 48 inches	Eight foot boulder energy dissipator.
4. ESC-MSH 48 inch Diversion Culvert	25.8	greater than 48 inches	Stilling basin and 30 inch riprap with filter layer.

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The values in the above table demonstrates the applicant has over designed in all cases and adequate scour protection is provided.

Compliance

The applicant complies with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.48 Acid-forming and Toxic-forming Materials

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The applicant has collected samples of soils, stratigraphic units above, below and within the coal seam, monitored and sampled springs, streams and point source discharge sites. The samples were analyzed for toxic- and acid-forming materials. These analyses have been submitted to the regulatory authority and have shown that a low potential exists for contamination due to acid- or toxic-forming materials from natural sources during and after mining.

To avoid any unforeseen instances, the applicant is utilizing diversions, slope shaping and impoundments which will direct water flow. Water samples will be taken in accordance with the proposed monitoring program (see TA, section UMC 817.42) at all point source discharge outlets to insure that effluent limitations will be met. Results of chemical analyses for overburden and coal samples are presented on pages 68 through 147, Section I, Volume 3 of the MRP.

Water sample analyses for underground and surface monitoring sites are shown on page 73 of the Hydrometrics Report in Volume 4 of the MRP and Exhibit 9 - 1979, Volume 2.

Compliance

The applicant has submitted roof, floor and coal samples chemically analyzed which would indicate a low potential for contamination problems due to acid- or toxic-forming materials.

The applicant has submitted chemical analyses from underground discharge sites in accordance with NPDES permit requirements. These analyses show the discharged water to be of high quality, much better than the receiving streams.

The applicant has complied with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.49 Hydrologic Balance: Permanent and Temporary Impoundments

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The sedimentation pond at the site is considered a temporary impoundment and will be removed during reclamation. There will be no permanent impoundments left at the site. The sediment pond has been discussed under Section UMC 817.46 for compliance. The certification report required by subsection (h) is complete and found in Volume 8, page 51b.

Compliance

The applicant's proposal is sufficient for compliance with UMC 817.49.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.50 Underground Mine Entry and Access Discharge

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The applicant submits (page 51c, Volume 8) that no ground-water discharge is anticipated during postmining operations. All entries and break outs are located on the up-dip side of the mine and will be sealed to prevent gravity drainage.

In the unlikely event that some discharge should occur, it would be similar to a natural spring due to the settling effect of underground ponding and the good quality of the water will be maintained.

At present, some 600 to 750 gallons per minute (gpm) of water is intercepted in the mining area and is being discharged via gravity flow from the Quitchupah break outs (NPDES discharge point 003) after being pumped to a higher elevation than the elevation of the break outs and allowed to flow through a settling pond constructed in old underground mine workings. At the cessation of mining, water will no longer be pumped to the underground settling pond. Instead, the water will fill the lower workings. It is not anticipated that the water level in the mine will reach either the break outs or the entry ways. After the ground-water fills the voids to its natural hydrostatic head, normal ground-water movement will continue.

Compliance

The applicant has submitted plans which illustrate how the break outs and mine entrances will be sealed (Volume 8, 1983 Completeness Response, p. 19d). Also, the applicant has shown that the quality of water intercepted in the mine is of good quality to meet effluent limitations (see Volume 1, 1977 Mine Plan, p. 55) in the unforeseen event that discharge should occur.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.52 Surface and Ground-Water Monitoring

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

Sufco has provided water quantity and quality data for surface and ground- water sites on and adjacent to the mine permit area which are above and below the mining operation.

Monitoring for springs and streams was initiated in July of 1975. Since then, monitoring has continued on an annual and semi-annual basis at several locations. Discharge and field data (pH, specific conductivity and temperature) were obtained at several sites during this time period.

Sites were selected for collection of baseline surface water quality. A limited number of water quality samples were collected at other sites characterized by field measurements.

During the 1983 year, a water monitoring program was implemented to establish seasonal variations on springs and streams. Measurements began as early as conditions permitted and continued at two week intervals through August and then on a monthly basis through September. The measurements and chemical analyses have been submitted to the regulatory authority.

Water quality parameters shall continue to be evaluated seasonally, June, August and October with a list of constituents to remain as outlined in Volume 4, 1981 Submittal, Table 4. Conductance, turbidity, pH and water temperature will continue to be measured with each flow determination.

Flow measurements will be a combination of continuous recorders where conditions permit and field measurements at those locations that have a history of gaging station washouts.

A NPDES permit has been applied for and issued to Sufco, #UT-0022918, for the discharges from the sedimentation pond and mine effluent.

On examination of baseline water quality data collected at and adjacent to the minesite, it can be seen that water quality in the area is generally of fair to good quality, is a calcium- magnesium, bicarbonate type, usually meets Federal primary and secondary drinking water standards--except at one site where iron and magnesium concentrations are higher--downstream water becomes progressively poorer with increasing total dissolved solids. No significant adverse mining related impacts to water quality of the mine plan and adjacent area have been observed.

Ground water samples were collected and analyzed for seven sites (East Spring [site 001], pumphouse effluent [site 047], mine discharge [site 021] and selected underground workings) to establish ground water quality above, below and within the coal seam. No water quality information was collected at any of the seven monitoring wells that were established because of the contamination caused by drilling fluids. Water levels have been established from the monitoring wells.

### Compliance

Sufco has presented monitoring information sufficient to establish the characteristics and type of water within and adjacent to the mine area. The applicant has also submitted water quality information for point source discharge sites on a monthly basis as required in their monitoring schedule for NPDES discharges.

The applicant has supplied sufficient information to establish seasonal trends in water quality and quantity at selected monitoring sites. The sampling referenced in the mine plan is sufficient for interpretation to establish baseline data so that significant impacts or charges can be determined.

It is the regulatory authority's opinion that sufficient information has been established to define baseline characteristics of surface and ground water. However, to observe with greater accuracy the influence mining will have, if any, on the underground water system during future mining Sufco should develop a more detailed underground water monitoring plan indicating areas where there is inflow to the mine through faults, fractures, seeps and bolt holes. Quantities should be collected on a quarterly basis to establish flow patterns and aquifer depletion patterns. Water quality should be taken at selected areas to establish any future changes.

### Stipulation 817.52-(1)-DD

1. The applicant will be required to establish an in-mine monitoring plan to determine trends in mine water quality and quantity and to establish site specific changes, if any, to the prevailing hydrologic balance. The plan should consist at a minimum of, but not be limited to the following:

### Initial

- a. Two years of data collected (one set of samples taken at low flow) on a quarterly basis (or four on at least 60 day increments) and consisting of an inventory of all inflows of the working portions of the mines.

- b. In cooperation with DOGM the applicant should select from the inventory representative sampling sites (which may change as mining progresses) of the mine flows greater than three gallons per minute (gpm), monitor for the other field parameters listed in Table 1 (attached) and collect water quality samples. The water quality samples should be analyzed for the constituents listed in Table 1 (attached).

Operational

- a. Collect an inventory of in-mine flow on a quarterly (four total on at least 60 day increments) basis.
- b. In cooperation with DOGM the applicant should select for the inventory representative sampling sites (which may change as mining progresses) of in-mine flows greater than 3 gpm, monitor for the other field parameters listed in Table 1 and collect water quality samples. The samples should be analysed for the constituents listed in Table 1 that are marked with an asterisk.

On at least an annual basis the applicant should submit the monitoring data in an annual hydrologic report. Included in the report should be an analysis of mine expansion, trends in mine water inflow, water balance and trends in water quality.

TABLE 1

SURFACE WATER BASELINE, OPERATIONAL AND  
POSTMINING WATER QUALITY PARAMETER LIST

Field Measurements:

- \* - Water Levels or Flow
- \* - pH
- \* - Specific Conductivity (umhos/cm)
- \* - Temperature (C°)
- \* - Dissolved Oxygen (ppm) (perennial streams only)

Laboratory Measurements: (mg/l) (Major, minor ions and trace elements are to be

analyzed in total and dissolved forms.)

- # \* - Total Settleable Solids
- # \* - Total Suspended Solids
- ✓ \* - Total Dissolved Solids
- ✓ \* - Total Hardness (as CaCO<sub>3</sub>)
- \* - Acidity (CaCO<sub>3</sub>)
- Aluminum (Al)

- Arsenic (As)
- Barium (Ba)
- Boron (B)
- ✓ \* - Carbonate ( $\text{CO}_3^{-2}$ )
- \* - Bicarbonate ( $\text{HCO}_3^{-}$ )
- Cadmium (Cd)
- ✓ \* - Calcium (Ca)
- \* - Chloride ( $\text{Cl}^{-}$ )
- Chromium (Cr)
- Copper (Cu)
- Fluoride ( $\text{F}^{-}$ )
- ✓ \* - Iron (Fe)
- Lead (Pb)
- \* - Magnesium (Mg)
- \* - Total Manganese (Mn)
- Mercury (Hg)
- Molybdenum (Mo)
- Nickel (Ni)
- Nitrogen: Ammonia ( $\text{NH}_3$ )
- Nitrite ( $\text{NO}_2$ )
- Nitrate ( $\text{NO}_3^{-}$ )
- \* - Potassium (K)
- Phosphate ( $\text{PO}_4^{-3}$ )
- Selenium (Se)
- ✓ \* - Sodium (Na)
- ✓ \* - Sulfate ( $\text{SO}_4^{-2}$ )
- Sulfide ( $\text{S}^{-}$ )
- Zinc (Zn)
- \* - Oil and Grease
- ✓ \* - Cation-Anion Balance

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Sampling Period:

- Baseline
- \*Operational, Postmining
- #Construction

UMC 817.53 Transfer of Wells

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

There are no developed water wells on the mine property. The applicant plans to use the observation wells on the mine plan property to monitor groundwater levels during mining operations. These wells are not developed for water production. The applicant has no plans to transfer these wells in the future. Upon cessation of operation and monitoring requirements, the wells will be plugged or transferred according to the applicable State and Federal regulations.

Compliance

The applicant's proposal complies with the requirements of this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.54 Water Rights and Replacement

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The applicant has implemented drainage and sediment controls, provided stability analyses for subsidence control, provided plans to ensure protection to stream channels which will be undermined and provided alternate water supply plans (page 52, Volume 4, Hydrometrics Report) in the event that the spring in East Spring Canyon is permanently disrupted.

Mining activities prior to 1977 disrupted flow to a small intermittent spring near the entrance of the mine in East Spring Canyon. During the mining process, a fault was mined through which was evidently interconnected with the spring recharge source. The water that recharged the spring now seeps from the fault into the mine. There was no water rights filed for the spring water.

The applicant has also committed to provide alternate water supplies in the unforeseen event that any present water supplies are disrupted.

Compliance

The applicant's plan will comply with the general requirements of this section when the following stipulation is met.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.55 Discharge of Water Into An Underground Mine

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The applicant has not or plans to divert or discharge water from the surface or other underground mines into the present mine working. The applicant has provided plans to divert all surface runoff away from all mine workings.

Compliance

The applicant's proposal complies with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.56 Postmining Rehabilitation of Sedimentation Ponds, Diversions, Impoundments and Treatment Facilities

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

Upon cessation of mining, all utilities and coal handling structures will be removed from the site. Structures which cannot be sold will be disposed of in private and municipal landfills. Concrete foundations that will not interfere with final grading will be buried on-site.

Other than the access road to the minesite, all structures will be dismantled and reclaimed. The fill pad and surface facilities area will be regraded as shown in Plate #2 and cross-sections G thru I of the SH & B report. The present fill face slope will be reduced to a stable slope with a safety factor of 1.5. The existing sediment pond and small settling pond will be removed along with all other mining facilities.

The East Spring Canyon and Mud Spring Hollow stream channels will be restored in accordance with UMC 817.44 (d). See discussion and condition under UMC 817.44 of this document.

Compliance

In recontouring the mine pad, all temporary hydrologic structures will be reclaimed.

The plans submitted by the applicant contain a practical solution for reclaiming the fill area, since the currently used sedimentation structures would interfere with the final restored channel. It was determined by the regulatory authority that implementation of these plans would divert the main channel around the regraded fill pad and minimize the sediment production from the regraded surface. It is assumed that effective revegetative growth should occur within a three-year period after reclamation starts. Grazing controls will have to be established so that plant growth can take hold and so that the trenches and diversions remain interact.

The applicant will comply with this section when more detailed information is submitted as outlined in the stipulation section for UMC 817.44.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.57 Stream Buffer Zones

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The North Fork of Quitchupah Creek and Quitchupah Creek contain at the least the biologic community outlined in paragraph (c) of UMC 817.57, and, therefore, must be protected and a buffer zone established.

In order to reach coal reserves on the north side of Quitchupah Creek, Sufco has established entry ways under the creek where overburden above the coal seam varies from 50 to 100 feet thick.

In implementing the stream crossing Sufco supplied plans in a letter dated August 31, 1982 (see Volume 8, page 54) containing a map, typical cross-sections of the crossing and pillar strength calculations. Caving or angle of draw as planned to intercept at 12° angles outside the 100 foot buffer zones. The applicant committed to no secondary mining beneath the stream buffer zone. This plan was approved by the Division via correspondence dated November 4, 1982 (see Volume 8, page 54). In addition, Sufco has committed to replace surface water which may be lost from this stream as the result of subsidence (see TA Section UMC 817.97).

The buffer zone markers have been placed at the north ventilation portal entries at Quitchupah Creek and will be placed at the pump station and leachfield area by July 15, 1983.

The sign dimensions are 12 inches X 18 inches. The wording used is "Stream Buffer Zone - No Disturbing Beyond This Point."

Compliance

The applicant has complied with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.59 Coal Recovery

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

Coal recovery will be maximized by the utilization of continuous and conventional (standby) mining machinery, as well as longwall

equipment (anticipated for Lease U-47080) where conditions allow. Maximum extraction of coal will be nearly full within pillar panels and 30-40 percent under steep canyon rims.

Compliance

The coal resource will be conserved while using the best technology available for mining and maintaining environmental integrity. The area under Quitchupah Creek had mains driven. (From a stability analysis, the safety factor for the pillar strength was 5.5, described in a letter from Sufco to DOGM dated August 31, 1982.)

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.61 Use of Explosives: General Requirements

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

Surface blasting is not expected for the remaining life of the mine. However, a blasting plan will be submitted by the applicant to the proper authorities for approval prior to using explosives, should blasting become necessary.

Compliance

The applicant complies with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.62-.68 Use of Explosives

See UMC 817.61.

UMC 817.71-.74 Disposal of Underground Development Waste and Excess Spoil and Nonacid- and Nontoxic-forming Coal Processing Waste

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The applicant returns the underground development waste and excess spoil from present operations to underground workings. The waste rock (i.e., top rock that is intentionally brought down or comes down--shales, slates and some sandstones) will be left in the mine.

Compliance

The applicant complies with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.81-.88 Coal Processing Waste Banks

Not applicable.

UMC 817.89 Disposal of Noncoal Wastes

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The trash from the operation is stored in a protected temporary storage area, protected from the wind by highwalls on three sides (access to the area is sloped inward to prevent water runoff from the pile). When enough waste is accumulated (about two weeks), the trash is loaded and hauled to the Salina City Municipal Sanitary Landfill 30 miles away, an approved landfill. Sufco has a cooperative agreement with the city to use the disposal area on a set fee-per-ton basis that was signed July 10, 1977.

Compliance

The applicant complies with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.91-.93 Coal Processing Waste: Dams and Embankments

This section is not applicable since there is no coal processing done at this mine.

UMC 817.95 Air Resources Protection

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The following control practices are employed by the applicant to limit air pollution which may result from the operation: paving the haulage road; busing employees (reducing vehicular traffic); applying water to the loadout area; covered conveyor belts, lifts and drop points, protecting drop points from the prevailing wind direction; limiting the loading of temporarily stored material by front-end loader; using scrubbers on diesel equipment; watering and dusting within the mine (to limit that dust which is exhausted into the atmosphere); oiling stoker coal; and, cleaning the haulage road (PAP Volume 2, 1979 Submittal, pp. 48-50, Exhibit 3, p. 10).

The air monitoring program was conducted by Radian Corporation from September 1, 1980 to August 31, 1981 in order to gather representative samples of total suspended particulates and meteorological data (See report, PAP, Volume 6).

### Compliance

The control practices proposed at the mine to suppress dust are adequate.

### Stipulations

None.

## UMC 817.97 Fish, Wildlife and Related Environmental Values

### Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The permit area is comprised of a variety of habitat types (see Section UMC 817.111-.117) and, therefore, supports a wide variety of wildlife species. Economically important and high interest species include elk, mule deer, black bear, coyote, mountain lion, mountain cottontail and several furbearing species. Bird species of high interest that are present in the area include the golden eagle, blue grouse, ruffed grouse, western bluebird and Grace's warbler. Golden eagle, prairie falcon and Cooper's hawk nests have been found on or near the permit area.

None of the surface waters in the mine plan area support game fish, due either to small size, intermittent flows or poor habitat and water quality. A three-year study to characterize the aquatic macroinvertebrate populations of the mine area surface waters has been done. These data were correlated with physical and chemical characteristics of the streams to determine potential of these waters to support a fishery. It was concluded that due to natural factors, water quality and quantity are not suitable for a fishery (see Aquatic Resources Section, Volume 6, Sufco MRP). Stream buffer zones have been implemented at the north ventilation entries above the North fork of Quitchupah Creek and in the pumphouse-leachfield area at the bottom of East Spring Canyon, where disturbance approaches stream channels. The north ventilation entries are approximately 100 feet from the creek, while the buffer zone at the leachfield is 75 feet wide (see Division approval letter of August 4, 1983, Attached to TA).

Elk utilize portions of the lease area on a seasonal basis. The area is mainly used for winter range, but elk calving areas also occur on Duncan Mountain. However, since surface facilities have existed for approximately 40 years and no additional disturbances are planned in critical elk wintering or calving areas, disturbance due to mining should be minimal.

None of the raptor nests located by Sufco's consultants or by the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service (UFWS) are located near surface facilities, so no impacts to breeding birds are anticipated.

During the summer, mule deer utilize habitats near watering areas away from the surface facilities, but with the onset of winter they move lower into sage and pinyon-juniper areas in the vicinity of the mine haul and access road, which makes them susceptible to traffic mortality. The mine operation and facilities pose no barriers to these movements (MRP, Volume 2, page 44). Other potential impacts to wildlife include human harassment and poaching, and potential effects of subsidence on surface waters. The applicant has already initiated a program to monitor surface-flowing water to determine diminished flows resulting from mine-related subsidence. Samples are taken in June, late July and October, representing high, medium and low flow conditions. The applicant has committed to replace waters diverted from the surface and several methods have been proposed to replace these waters (MRP Volume 4, pages 52-54). The method to be used would depend on the specific circumstances involved.

No species officially designated as threatened or endangered have been found to reside in the mine plan area (see Finding #15). Bald eagles may pass through the area during their annual migrations, but none nest or winter in the permit area.

The applicant has submitted a plan as follows to mitigate the adverse effects of the project on wildlife (pages 58c and d, Volume 8, MRP). To reduce the chance of deer-vehicle collisions, the applicant has posted the access road with appropriate speed limits and implemented employee commuter buses to minimize highway traffic. All power poles on the minesite were modified for raptor protection in accordance with REA Bulletin 61-10, Powerline Contacts by Eagles and Other Large Birds, in 1981. Sufco restricts use of firearms by company personnel and has implemented an employee education program on wildlife values put together by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. Revegetation of the surface facilities area will be accomplished using a diverse variety of native grasses, forbs and shrubs (see seed mix, Volume 8, page 12-0). Since the original habitat type of this area was pinyon-juniper, reclamation should enhance the area for wildlife utilization by providing a ground cover of palatable grasses and forbs. Rubber rabbitbrush, juniper, pinyon and bitterbrush seedlings will also be planted in clumps of 200. The clumps will serve to create an edge between the seedlings and the grass-forb ground cover, which is attractive to wildlife. The species to be planted have wildlife value as food or cover.

#### Compliance

The applicant has shown compliance with Section UMC 817.97.

#### Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.99 Slides and Other Damage

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The applicant has committed in the text of the mine permit application that the Sufco mine general manager or his designated representative will promptly notify DOGM within 15 days of the occurrence of a slide which has potential for adverse effect on public property, health, safety or the environment as defined by this regulation. The applicant will comply with remedial measures required by the regulatory authorities to reduce or eliminate the potential adverse effect of such a slide.

Compliance

Applicant complies with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.101 Backfilling and Grading

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

Backfilling operations utilizing dozers, scrapers, front-end loaders and dump trucks will be conducted after the removal of structures. The present fill material will be used to reduce the slope of cut faces and the fill face. The compaction will be 75 percent to 80 percent (using the modified Procter Method) until the fill reaches a foot of final grade (Volume 8, 1983 Completeness Response, page 18). Excess fill material will be regraded to maintain a long-term static factor of safety in excess of 1.5. The main drainage channel will be permanently diverted around the fill material. Final configuration of the excess material does not reach AOC due to physical limitations of the site. The fill does however, have slopes which are similar to surrounding natural terrain with terraces to improve stability of the material (Feb. 27, 1986, Submittal of Drainage Plan and Slope Stability for Reclamation of Convulsion Canyon Mine, SHB Job No. E83-2022).

Prior to topsoil redistribution, regraded land will be scarified by a ripper-equipped tractor about a foot deep. Topsoil redistribution will ensure an approximate uniform thickness of six inches and be done at a time of year suitable for seeding permanent revegetation (i.e. October). To minimize compaction of the topsoil following redistribution, travel on reclamation areas will be limited only to essential reclamation equipment. The applicant will exercise care to guard against erosion during and after application of topsoil and will employ matting, mulching and surface roughing techniques to ensure the stability of topsoil on graded slopes (Volume 8, 1983 Completeness Response, Page 18).

Compliance

The applicant complies with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.103 Covering of Acid- and Toxic-forming Materials

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

There is no coal processing done at this mine permit area. All waste rock from the roof and floor of the mine are disposed of underground (Volume 2, MRP 1979 page 29).

No single underground area will be used exclusively for waste. The underground waste disposal usually involves placing noncombustible rock waste material in unused crosscuts between entries to the current mining areas. Underground waste disposal will be conducted in accordance with 30 CFR 75.400 such that the waste storage will not contain more than the maximum allowed combustible material. It is in the operator's best interest to avoid wasting material with potential heat content since this material can be sold as product. Disposal will be placed such that it: (1) is convenient with regards to cost; (2) does not obstruct ventilation; (3) does not obstruct current mining; and (4) will not be a hazard or impede future retreat mining.

Compliance

The applicant is in compliance with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.106 Regrading or Stabilizing Rills and Gullies

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The applicant will fill, regrade or otherwise stabilize any rills or gillies deeper than nine (9) inches which form in areas which have been regraded and topsoiled. The areas adjacent to any rills or gullies which have been filled, regraded or otherwise stabilized, will be reseeded or stabilized according to the revegetation plan (Volume 8, 1983 Completeness Response page 61).

Compliance

The applicant is in compliance with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.100, 817.111-.117 Revegetation

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

Vegetation habitat types contained within the Sufco properties and adjacent areas include the pinyon-juniper, ponderosa pine, fir and aspen types of the boreal forest biome and the sagebrush/grass, black sagebrush and mountain brush types of the desert shrub biome.

The surface facilities for the mine occur in an area which was formerly of the pinyon-juniper type and cover approximately 17 acres. The pinyon-juniper type occupies about 26 percent of the lease area, or 1,611 acres. This type occurs mostly on steep canyon slopes, between 7,000 and 9,000 foot elevation.

Three ventilation break outs were punched out from the inside into the steep canyon walls above the North Fork of Quitchupah Creek in 1982. Total disturbance of each break out is less than one acre. They occur within the pinyon-juniper and fir habitat types.

The pinyon-juniper habitat type was sampled for total cover, cover by species, shrub density, productivity and characteristics of the tree-component, including density, average height and average diameter. Adequate sampling as per DOGM's vegetation information guidelines was achieved for percent cover and shrub density data. The sampling method used was the modified reference area method for mines with existing (pre-Law) disturbance, whereby a reference area is set up and fully characterized in a community type thought to be as similar as possible to the natural one in the area previously disturbed. A permanent reference area has been staked and will be used to judge the adequacy of revegetation efforts.

No plant species federally listed as Threatened or Endangered (T&E) has been found to occur on the permit area, nor has a literature survey indicated the potential for any such occurrences. The USFWS has determined that this mining operation will not affect any species protected by the Endangered Species Act (see Findings Document, #15).

The applicant has submitted a complete reclamation plan for both the surface facilities and break out sites (PAP Volume 8 February 1984 Stipulation Response). This plan addresses timing of revegetation, revegetation species and seeding and stocking rates, tillage and mulching practices, fertilization, irrigation and

grazing management. The seed mix consists of a diverse mixture of native grasses, forbs, shrubs and one introduced species, yellow sweet clover. This species meets the requirements of UMC 817.112 in stabilizing the area, yet allowing diverse permanent cover to be established. It was used on the sedimentation pond dam at the Convulsion Canyon mine in 1981 for interim reclamation. By 1984 all the sweet clover had died out and native grasses had become established (PAP, Vol. 8, February Stipulation Response). A mixture of native shrubs will be seeded and also planted in random clumps of 200 with at least 5 clumps per acre on the surface facilities area. This planting program is designed to enhance postmining land-use of wildlife habitat and follows recommendations made by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (see October 24, 1983 letter attached to TA). Break out areas will be regraded, covered with soil and seeded with the same seed mix as the surface facilities area. No shrubs will be planted on these small areas. Any reclamation work done prior to final reclamation will be accomplished similarly to final reclamation with the exception that no shrubs will be planted.

An adequate plan for monitoring the success of revegetated areas has also been submitted (PAP Volume 8, February 1984 Stipulation Response).

#### Feasibility of Reclamation

The Convulsion Canyon Mine site receives 12-16 inches of precipitation annually. There are no other mines in the area that have implemented reclamation procedures; however, the USFS has set up successful revegetation test plots in the Emery Coal Field approximately 10 miles east of the minesite. This area receives less precipitation than the minesite does.

#### Compliance

The applicant has adequately addressed all the requirements of a complete reclamation plan.

#### Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.121 Subsidence Control: General Requirements and UMC 817.124 Subsidence Control: Surface Owner Protection

#### Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The effect of underground mining on surface use, primarily cattle grazing and big game hunting (there is also some snowmobiling and timber cutting of over-mature ponderosas), will be minimal. Subsidence will be gradual and eventually uniform over most of the lease, too imperceptible to affect general land-use.

Subsidence will be planned to maximize coal recovery and prevent adverse effects to renewable resources and structures. Two zones will exist over the mine property. A non-subsidence zone will exist along stream channels and along the coal outcrop where ground cover is low. A subsidence zone will exist where pillars will be extracted to allow surface subsidence. The first mining zone forms a band contiguous to the southerly Convulsion and easterly Quitchupah canyon rims where subsidence is not expected and erosion will not be facilitated. Subsidence above the second mining zone is planned to be systematic and gradual, to be restricted to the interior of the leases and away from outcrops. An uneven arching effect is expected over "full" extraction areas during mining operations, which will stabilize in uniform subsidence once the entire area is mined.

Subsidence is monitored at six month intervals by mine personnel with survey points located where settling is anticipated. A semi-annual report is currently and shall in the future be provided to State and Federal authorities, which tabulates horizontal and vertical displacements at each of the monitoring stations (vol. 8, 1983 ACR Response, p. 22).

Enough subsidence data has been acquired to develop subsidence profiles and determine the 12 degree angle of draw and subsidence characteristics for the permit area. None-the-less, additional data from other ongoing company monitored subsidence studies are currently and shall in the future be integrated with subsidence reports in order to determine more precisely the overall effects of subsidence--(1) surveys to verify the 12° angle of draw under varying overburden depths, (2) a complete subsidence study being conducted by Woodward-Clyde Consultants (sponsored by the Department of Energy), (3) surveys to determine maximum subsidence with varying overburden depths, and (4) surveys to locate the exact positions of tension cracks in relation to underground workings (see vol. 5, Subsidence, p. 3-6)

If spring 001 (East Spring Canyon) is disrupted by mining subsidence, alternatives to supplying the stock water which it supports are proposed, including: (1) drilling a water well into abandoned mine workings; (2) constructing a surface water impoundment north of the spring; (3) developing ground-water from upper Duncan Draw. If necessary, the third option given appears to be the most feasible because a spring present in section 26 supplies three stock water ponds on a year round basis in Duncan Draw. Consultation with U. S. Forest Service personnel at Fishlake National Forest in 1978 resulted in an agreement that a plastic pipeline connecting upper Duncan Draw to spring 001 would be a feasible alternative water supply (for more details see vol. 4, Hydrology, p. 53-54).

Full-extraction mining techniques have been planned and implemented on fee property. Consequently, SUFCo has obtained written permission from the owners of the fee property in regards to full-extraction methods which have resulted in subsidence (Volume 8, Stipulation Response Revision, December 9, 1983).

SUFCo has petitioned the U.S. Forest Service and the Regulatory Authority to allow subsidence along the escarpments. Permission was granted on a limited basis to allow longwall mining under the western escarpment of Quitchupah Canyon. It was determined that subsidence along the escarpment should not cause major adverse effects to the hydrologic regime or surface features. Buffer zones have been established where secondary mining will not take place. Some adverse effects that could occur from subsidence are changes in the aesthetics and potential of taking or damaging raptor nests from fracturing or cliff spawling. A review of these problems concluded that the aesthetics problem is negligible on the basis that new face exposure would be created if spawling should occur and the canyon does not attract visitors. SUFCo has committed to complete a detailed raptor survey of all cliffs (both east and west side of Quitchupah Canyon) with a potential for subsidence. This survey must be completed in late Spring of 1987 by helicopter, and in accordance with the Regulatory Authority's guidelines (to be issued in the near future). SUFCo will also monitor the escarpment area and provide an annual subsidence report including data generated with documentation of movement, displacement and type of displacement (e.g. slippage, rotation, cliff failure).

#### Compliance

- A. The applicant has committed to planning and conducting underground coal mining activities using measures consistent with known technology in order to prevent subsidence from causing material damage to the surface, to the extent technologically and economically feasible, and maintain the value and reasonable foreseeable use of surface land except in those areas where mining technology requires planned subsidence in a predictable manner (all terms are as defined by this regulation).
- B. The applicant shall and is complying with all provisions of the subsidence control plan pursuant to UMC 784.20 and approved by the Division.
- C. The applicant has a \$1,000,000 (per each occurrence) property damage insurance policy. No lessening of surface property values is anticipated and should damage occur, owners will be notified.
- D. Plans to mitigate subsidence effects for spring 001 have been proposed, agreed upon, and their feasibility have been determined.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.122 Subsidence Control: Public Notice

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

Other than 640 acres owned by the applicant, surface lands within the permit area are owned by the U.S. Government and are either parts of the Fishlake or Mante - La Sal National Forests. Maps showing the projected sequence and dates of projected mining activities for the operation which could potentially affect the surface through subsidence caused by underground coal mining have been mailed to a respective forest supervisors.

Compliance

The applicant complies with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.124 Subsidence Control: Surface Owner Protection

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The applicant has submitted complete subsidence control plans to the regulatory authority and forest supervisors which will utilize the best technology available and provide controlled subsidence. The applicant has cooperated with forest and regulatory officials to protect areas along escarpments and the North Fork of Quitchupah Creek so that no subsidence will take place. No secondary mining will take place in the vicinity of springs.

Compliance

The applicant complies with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.126 Subsidence Control: Buffer Zones

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The North Mains mining section passed beneath Quitchupah Creek as an access way to reserves on the northeast side of the property. Overburden in this crossing varies between 50 to 100 feet, consisting of interbedded siltstone, sandstone and shale. Full roof

support is planned by the use of minimum-size 66 X 100 foot pillars. A 100-foot buffer zone, where there will be no second (full extraction) mining, will be maintained on either side of Quitchupah Creek. Tri-annual hydrologic monitoring for changes in flow is conducted both on the surface and underground. Should subsidence from planned underground mining interrupt or diminish it's flow the nature of the problem will be investigated by the operator and measures to correct the damage and to prevent addition subsidence will be determined through consultation with the regulatory authority to the extent technologically and economically feasible (as defined by this regulation).

#### Compliance

The Division approved Sufco's Quitchupah Creek crossing on November 4, 1982 (see UMC 817.57). Sufco has not only committed to adopt measures determined through consultation with the Division to correct damage as a result of subsidence through mining practices, but has also, committed to replace any surface water associated with this creek lost as the result of subsidence and to use the highest level of economically feasible technology to provide protection to the stream crossing at the time of abandonment. The applicant will contact the regulatory authority within a 24 hour period if catastrophic subsidence (collapse of the stream channel) should occur.

#### Stipulations

None.

#### UMC 817.131-.132 Cessation of Operations

Not applicable at this time.

#### UMC 817.133 Postmining Land-Use

#### Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The Sufco lease area is predominantly U. S. Forest Service land managed under multiple use and sustained yield concepts. Present management emphasizes livestock grazing, wildlife, timber and watershed development.

The majority of the mine area is within the Old Woman Management Area, Salina Planning Unit, Fishlake National Forest. Current grazing intensity averages seven acres per AUM (animal unit month) for combined sheep and cattle grazing.

Selective timber harvesting of ponderosa pine occurs on and around the lease area. Other timber uses include posts and poles from aspen and Christmas-tree cutting.

Hunting is a major recreational use of the area, with the majority of hunter-use days for big game hunting. Other recreational uses of the area include dispersed camping, winter sports and fishing.

No other mining operations occur in the immediate vicinity. Some oil and gas exploration occurs in the area, but there are currently no producing wells.

A land-use map for the permit area (Map 80-3, Volume 3, MRP) has been provided.

Land uses will continue to be the same, under USFS management, after mining ends. Final reclamation activities will be completed so as to provide land uses consistent with those required by USFS land use plans. Grasses to be seeded during reclamation will provide forage for livestock and wildlife. Shrubs to be seeded and planted will provide browse and cover for wildlife. Pinyon and juniper seedlings will also be planted which will eventually restore forestry use. All mining structures and facilities will be removed or reclaimed following the closure of operations. The main access road (a county road) will remain open.

#### Compliance

Applicant complies with this section.

#### Stipulations

None.

#### UMC 817.150-.176 Roads

#### Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

There are three roads that will be used in connection with the applicant's mine facilities: Mine Access Road; East Side Road; and the Old Woman Plateau Road. The main Mine Access Road is a paved Sevier County Road (Class B) which extends from Interstate Highway 70 to the minesite. Sufco is responsible for the maintenance of the road on the permit area which is 350 feet from the guard shack north to the surface facilities area. Runoff water from this unpaved section is routed into the disturbed surface facilities area and through the main sediment control structures. The gradient of the road is 1.2 percent from the permit boundary down the disturbed area. A berm on the downhill side of the road channels water flow to the sedimentation pond.

The East Side Road existed prior to mining activities for the purpose of providing access from the bottom of Convulsion Canyon to the upper plateau for herding livestock. Sufco uses the road for access to the mining operation's electrical and water supply systems. No relocation of the road is planned. Mining activities are conducted within 100 feet of the right-of-way line and the road is shown on the Sevier County Class D System as a public road. The activities include the underground entry system underneath the road. The mains will not be pulled and no further mining will occur and therefore no impact to the road should occur. Sufco will ensure that no subsidence or caving operations will be conducted as to affect any portion of the right-of-way. Surface activities will be conducted in a manner which will not block the road. The grade of the road averages between 7.7 percent to 13 percent. Sufco has constructed water bars in the road approximately every 200 feet from Convulsion Canyon to the water tank.

The Old Woman Plateau Road is an unpaved Sevier County Class D road. There are no surface activities planned which will relocate or disrupt the public use of this road. As part of the subsidence monitoring program, the roads will be inspected by Sufco personnel on a quarterly basis to look for tension cracks and, if such damage is evident, the road will be repaired by Sufco.

A pre-existing USFS access road that is about 1,000 feet long exists on the lease at the mine. The company does not plan on closing the road or revegetating it, since it could be used for driving livestock or fighting forest fires. At the time of abandonment, the road will be closed, depending on USFS wishes. The county access road will be left at the conclusion of mining.

#### Compliance

The applicant complies with this section.

#### Stipulations

None.

#### UMC 817.180 Other Transportation Facilities

#### Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

Conveyors are used to transport coal from the mine to the crusher and from the crusher to storage sites. These structures will be razed and removed from the site during reclamation. All coal is truck hauled from the site to a railroad siding near Levan, Utah. There are no public utility corridors crossing the mine property. These facilities prevent damage to fish, wildlife, and related environmental values (in UMC 817.97 of the TA) as well as prevent additional contributions of suspended solids to streamflow or runoff outside the permit area (UMC 817.41-.49 of the TA).

The East Side Road existed prior to mining activities for the purpose of providing access from the bottom of Convulsion Canyon to the upper plateau for herding livestock. Sufco uses the road for access to the mining operation's electrical and water supply systems. No relocation of the road is planned. Mining activities are conducted within 100 feet of the right-of-way line and the road is shown on the Sevier County Class D System as a public road. The activities include the underground entry system underneath the road. The mains will not be pulled and no further mining will occur and therefore no impact to the road should occur. Sufco will ensure that no subsidence or caving operations will be conducted as to affect any portion of the right-of-way. Surface activities will be conducted in a manner which will not block the road. The grade of the road averages between 7.7 percent to 13 percent. Sufco has constructed water bars in the road approximately every 200 feet from Convulsion Canyon to the water tank.

The Old Woman Plateau Road is an unpaved Sevier County Class D road. There are no surface activities planned which will relocate or disrupt the public use of this road. As part of the subsidence monitoring program, the roads will be inspected by Sufco personnel on a quarterly basis to look for tension cracks and, if such damage is evident, the road will be repaired by Sufco.

A pre-existing USFS access road that is about 1,000 feet long exists on the lease at the mine. The company does not plan on closing the road or revegetating it, since it could be used for driving livestock or fighting forest fires. At the time of abandonment, the road will be closed, depending on USFS wishes. The county access road will be left at the conclusion of mining.

#### Compliance

The applicant complies with this section.

#### Stipulations

None.

#### UMC 817.180 Other Transportation Facilities

#### Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

Conveyors are used to transport coal from the mine to the crusher and from the crusher to storage sites. These structures will be razed and removed from the site during reclamation. All coal is truck hauled from the site to a railroad siding near Levan, Utah. There are no public utility corridors crossing the mine property. These facilities prevent damage to fish, wildlife, and related environmental values (in UMC 817.97 of the TA) as well as prevent additional contributions of suspended solids to streamflow or runoff outside the permit area (UMC 817.41-.49 of the TA).

Compliance

The applicant complies with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 817.181 Support Facilities and Utility Installations

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The central facilities are shown on map ID include the mine office building, coal crushing and handling facility, truck loadout facility, the maintenance shops and warehouse and the yard area. The power is received from Utah Power & Light Company (shown on Map 80-4A, 4B, 4C). These facilities prevent damage to fish, wildlife, and related environmental values (UMC 817.97 of the TA) as well as prevent additional contributions of suspended solids to streamflow (UMC 817.41-.49 of the TA).

Compliance

The applicant complies with this section.

Stipulations

None.

UMC 822.1-.14 Alluvial Valley Floors

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The applicant has examined the mine plan and adjacent areas for potential Alluvial Valley Floors (AVF). Interpretation of the studies conclude that there is or will be no adverse effects to potential AVF's caused by mining activities.

The area within and adjacent the mine permit area consists of plateaus and precipitous canyons as shown on topographic map submitted in the mine plan (Plate H-II).

Unconsolidated standard deposits are present in the following drainages.

Within the Mine Plan Area:

1. North Fork Quitchupah Creek. This drainage is deep and very steep and is narrow at the bottom. Streamlaid deposits are present only in small, discontinuous narrow

patches. Bedrock is exposed in much of the canyon bottom and the stream cascades over exposed bedrock outcrops.

2. East Spring Canyon. Characteristics of unconsolidated alluvium are the same as in North Fork Quitchupah Canyon.
3. Duncan Draw. This drainage within the permit boundary is narrow and steep with a few small (less than one acre) patches of alluvium present. Bedrock is exposed in much of the drainage.
4. Unnamed tributary to Duncan Draw. (T. 21 S., R. 5 E., Sec 31 31/2). This drainage is steep, but contains narrow patches of unconsolidated alluvium. This drainage has not been investigated in detail, but areas underlain by unconsolidated alluvium are estimated to aggregate a few acres in size.
5. Unnamed tributaries to East Spring Canyon. These small drainages are east of Sec. 1, T. 22 S., R. 4 E., and are tributaries to East Spring Canyon (Plate H-II). These drainages are narrow and steep, but have a few scattered patches of unconsolidated alluvium. No detailed investigation of these drainages has been made, but areas underlain by unconsolidated alluvium are estimated to aggregate only a few acres in size.

Adjacent Area:

1. North Fork Quitchupah Creek downstream from mine permit area. While the canyon is steep and narrow, there are unconsolidated alluvial deposits toward the lower end. Similarly, in the adjacent area at the upper end of North Fork Quitchupah Canyon and its South Fork tributary there are small narrow areas underlain by consolidated alluvium. None of these deposits have been mapped in detail.
2. Duncan Draw and Mud Springs Hollow. The segments of Duncan Draw and Mud Spring Hollow in the adjacent area contain some small area underlain by unconsolidated alluvium. Both these canyons are narrow and steep, and probably there are no areas in the canyon where unconsolidated alluvium underlies more than 10 acres.
3. Convulsion Canyon and Quitchupah Creek. These drainages contain narrow deposits of unconsolidated alluvium. The canyon bottoms are narrow, but alluvium may be as much as 75 feet thick. Streams are deeply incised into the alluvium creating steep banks with a narrow stream channel in the bottoms. These unconsolidated deposits have not been mapped in detail.

There is no flood irrigation in the mine plan area or the adjacent area, and no evidence of historical use of flood irrigation.

Due to small size, steepness, water availability, land ownership and short growing season, these areas are not practical for flood irrigation. In this region, flood irrigation is not practiced in such high mountain drainages.

No historic farming or flood irrigation has occurred in the area except for two areas. These areas lie outside the adjacent area several miles downstream from the mine where no disturbance has taken place. Approximately 110 acres where flood irrigation is practiced and another approximately 25 acres that may have been irrigated in the past. The areas are along Quitchupah Creek from which they would receive their irrigation water. Quitchupah Creek in this segment is deeply incised into the alluvium creating steep banks with a narrow stream channel. Thickness of the alluvium is unknown, but probably is greater than 50 feet.

During mining activities, additional water will be supplied to the streams from mine discharge that meets State and Federal water quality guidelines. When mining activities cease, streams will once again flow at their natural rates.

#### Compliance

The applicant has sufficiently described the area and potential AVF potential.

It is the Division's opinion that the potential for an AVF does not exist in or adjacent to the mine plan area and that there is no potential for adverse effects for irrigated lands downstream.

#### Stipulations

None.

0701R-4

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING  
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT  
NOTICE OF A DECISION AND AVAILABILITY  
OF A TECHNICAL ANALYSIS INCLUDING AN  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR  
THE CONVULSION CANYON MINE  
SOUTHERN UTAH FUEL COMPANY  
SEVIER COUNTY, UTAH

The United States Department of the Interior, in accordance with Section 523 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, has approved a mining plan for Southern Utah Fuel Company to mine coal at its Convulsion Canyon mine. The documentation for the decision was prepared by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE).

The Convulsion Canyon underground coal mine is located in Sevier County, Utah, approximately 30 miles east of Salina, Utah. The mine has been in operation since 1941. The permit area associated with the mining plan area contains approximately 7355 acres, approximately 17 acres of which have been affected by surface disturbance to date. Maximum mine production will be 2,000,000 tons of coal per year, and mining is expected to continue for 25 years.

Pursuant to 40 CFR Sections 1501.4(e) and 1506.6, notice is hereby given that OSMRE has found that no significant environmental impacts would result from such approval based on an Environmental Assessment prepared by OSMRE and Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining's technical analysis. Approval of Southern Utah Fuel Company's mining plan was in accordance with 30 CFR Part 746. OSMRE's Environmental Assessment concluded that no significant impacts to the quality of the human environment would result from such approval; therefore, an environmental impact statement was not prepared. For information or clarification concerning the approval of the Convulsion Canyon mine mining plan, please contact Megan Estep-Johnston or Richard Holbrook at (303) 844-2451, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Denver, Colorado.

The decision document, including the Environmental Assessment, is available for public review at the following locations:

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement  
Western Field Operations  
1020 15th Street  
Denver, Colorado 80202

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement  
Albuquerque Field Office  
219 Central Avenue, N.W.  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87012

Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
355 West North Temple  
3 Triad Center, Suite 350  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

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