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STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Oil, Gas & Mining

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May 22, 1987

To: File

From: David W. Darby, Geologist *DWD*

RE: Change in Mining Sequence, Convulsion Canyon Mine, Southern Utah Fuel Company, ACT/041/002, Sevier County, Utah, Folder #2 and 3.

Proposal

Southern Utah Fuel Company (SUFCo) submitted a proposal June 23, 1986 requesting a modification to their mine plan. The modification called for a change in the method and sequence of mining, whereby longwall mining would take place beneath and beyond the escarpment along Quitchupah Creek.

The proposal was reviewed on August 11, 1986. The Division required SUFCo to implement a raptor survey of the escarpment along Quitchupah Creek and commit to conduct detailed subsidence surveys before mining could be permitted.

The raptor survey was conducted on March 14, 1987 by Miles Moretti and Larry Dalton from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and Keith Welch of Coastal States Energy Company. Three golden eagle nests were sited on the western escarpment of Quitchupah Creek outside the boundary of mining. A fourth nest on the west escarpment inside the mining boundary appeared old and dilapidated. Nests previously located on the east escarpment by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service could not be found.

SUFCo has committed to conducting a detailed subsidence survey in a letter dated November 11, 1986. SUFCo has also discussed their subsidence monitoring plans in their Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP), which stated that they intend to use the photogrammetric method to detect subsidence activity caused by mining.

Conclusion and Recommendation

SUFCo has conducted the raptor survey required by the Division for approval of the mining modification. The survey indicates that nests of endangered species will not be affected if the escarpment is subsided or displaced. Condition 817.97 - (1) is addressed, and I recommended that SUFCo be permitted to expand their mining operations under the western escarpment in accordance with their proposed plans and the Divisions conditional approval (approval letter dated November 3, 1986).