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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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July 31, 1989

TO: Richard V. Smith, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Brent A. Stettler, Reclamation Biologist *Brent*

RE: Determination of Completeness, Quitchupah Lease Tract Addition, Southern Utah Fuel Company, Convulsion Canyon Mine, ACT/041/002, Folder #2, Sevier County, Utah

Synopsis of Proposal

Southern Utah Fuel Company (SUFCO) proposes to expand mine operations onto the Quitchupah Lease, U-63214. No facilities or surface disturbance is planned on the lease area.

Analysis

In the Initial Completeness Review (ICR), I recommended:
(1) surveys of raptor nests along escarpments, prior to undermining;
(2) acquisition of state and federal permits for nests, threatened by subsidence; and (3) follow-up raptor studies, in the event subsidence occurs.

SUFCO has chosen not to adopt my recommendations (PAP, Volume 10, Section 9.3). They believe their plans to be adequate for subsidence prevention. These plans include limited extraction (first mining) under escarpments with coal pillars designed with a minimum safety factor of 2 (PAP, Volume 10, Sections 5.3 and 5.4).

SUFCO has been made aware of the legal ramifications of failing an eagle nest. So long as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources express no concerns relative to SUFCO's proposal, I will defer further comment on the matter.

Recommendations

The application may be considered complete from a biology perspective.

djh
AT9/81