



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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August 29, 1989

TO: Richard V. Smith, Permit Supervisor

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

RE: Technical Analysis for the Quitchupah Lease Addition,  
Southern Utah Fuel Company, Convulsion Canyon Mine,  
ACT/041/002, Folder #2, Sevier County, Utah

UMC 817.97 Protection of Fish, Wildlife and Related  
Environmental Values-(BAS)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

No surface facilities, structures, or powerlines are proposed for the Quitchupah Lease Addition (Chapter 3, page 18). Vegetative disturbance is limited to that incurred during exploratory drilling or by subsidence (Chapter 8, page 45). Subsidence impacts are expected to be limited to lowering of plateau topography (Map 5.1).

The applicant has collected historical raptor data for the lease addition. Dr. Clayton M. White, SUFCo consultant, reported on avifauna of the permit area (Convulsion Canyon PAP, Volume 6). Golden eagles have historically nested in Quitchupah Canyon (Sections 20 and 30 of T21S, R5E--refer to Appendix 1, Map 2). The applicant proposes to limit mining beyond escarpments as a precaution against failing nests by subsidence (Chapter 5, page 27). The applicant has further committed to report the presence of threatened or endangered species or their habitats or any bald or golden eagle (Chapter 3, page 19). The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources recommends no further raptor studies unless escarpments are impacted by subsidence, which is not expected to occur (Chapter 9, page 46).

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Aquatic wildlife of the Convulsion Canyon permit area has been described by Dr. Robert N. Winget of Brigham Young University (Convulsion Canyon PAP, Volume 6). No fishery exists within the lease addition. Quitchupah and Box Canyon creeks, which are perennial streams, will be protected by buffer zones (Chapter 5, page 28). Buffer zones will be penetrated by access entries only, which will be sealed after abandonment (Chapter 4, page 21).

Map 8.1 delineates vegetation communities occurring within the lease addition. Quantitative vegetation measurements of the Convulsion Canyon permit area have been made by Dr. Stanley L. Welsh. Terrestrial wildlife resources have been described by Drs. H. Duane Smith and Clyde L. Pritchett. Their respective reports are contained in the Convulsion Canyon PAP, Volume 5.

#### Compliance

The applicant's proposal to restrict subsidence impacts to plateaus while protecting escarpments and perennial streams is considered adequate for preventing or minimizing impacts to fish, wildlife, and related environmental values.

The applicant is in compliance with this section.

#### Stipulations

None.

#### UMC 817.100 Contemporaneous Reclamation--(BAS)

This section does not apply.

#### UMC 817.111-.117 Revegetation--(BAS)

No vegetative disturbance is anticipated beyond that incurred by exploratory drilling (Chapter 8, page 45). Therefore, this section does not apply.

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UMC 817.133 Postmining Land Use-(BAS)

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The Quitchupah Lease Addition is public land, administered by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (Chapter 3, page 18). The Convulsion Canyon PAP, Volume 3, identifies land uses. These include livestock grazing, wildlife use, recreation, selective timber harvest, and watershed development. Present land uses will continue unchanged after termination of mining.

Compliance

The applicant is in compliance with this section.

Stipulations

None.

djh  
AT9/43-45