



**Coastal**  
The Energy People

041/002 #2  
Doran 2

**RECEIVED**

MAR 25 1992

DIVISION OF  
OIL GAS & MINING

March 19, 1992

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

Dear Mr. Braxton:

*Lowell*

Southern Utah Fuel Company was granted permission to undermine 5000 ft of escarpment on the west side of Quitchupah Canyon using longwall mining under the "experimental" provisions of SMCRA regulations in 1987. This permission required that a monitoring program be implemented to assess the effects of the resulting subsidence on the escarpment. Three longwall panels were extracted in the study area. The resulting vertical subsidence varies from one to seven feet. Horizontal movement varied from several tenths to almost three feet. Several surface tension cracks were observed. One small independent block of Castlegate Sandstone tipped over during subsidence. The resulting rubble on the slope is very similar to naturally occurring rock slides along the escarpment. No other damage was noted.

Twelve copies of a report on results of the experimental practice to date are enclosed. This report quantifies the subsidence movement and also contains before and after subsidence photos of the escarpment showing the minor impact of the one independent block failing.

Southern Utah Fuel Company respectfully requests the experimental practice study area be amended to include an additional escarpment area on the east side of Quitchupah Canyon. The extended study area on the east of Quitchupah would be located in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , S29, T21S R5E. The escarpment length in this area is about 1800 linear ft. No additional escarpment areas are anticipated to be undermined during the permit term.

Mining operations at the SUFCO Mine have undermined some 7,000 linear ft of escarpment using full extraction room and pillar methods with little damage. An additional 5,000 ft of escarpment has been undermined in the longwall study area.

**Southern Utah Fuel Company**

A SUBSIDIARY OF THE COASTAL CORPORATION  
397 SOUTH 800 WEST • SALINA UT 84654 • 801/637-4880

Ltr-DOGM, Escarpment Subsidence  
March 19, 1992  
Page 2

This brings the total escarpment affected to some 12,000 linear ft. Only two small blocks and one boulder have been loosened and tipped over during this mining activity.

The necessary pages to update the currently approved MRP to allow modification of the subsidence zone is included. This information consists of an insertion guide and updates for Volume 5 and Volume 10 of the currently approved plan.

Please approve this experimental area modification. In order to maximize recovery and not bypass some 361,000 tons of Federal coal, approval is required by the middle of July 1992. Although no known raptor nests are in this area, we understand that a raptor survey will be required. Because the raptor survey needs to be completed in the near future, we will proceed with the survey this spring.

Sincerely,  
SOUTHERN UTAH FUEL COMPANY

  
Ken Payne,  
Vice President and General Manager

KMP/WKS:jad#281