

0016

Reply to: 2820

Date: April 24, 1992

Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor
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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DIVISION OF
OIL GAS & MINING

RE: Mining and Reclamation Plan (5 year renewal), SUFCO Mine, January, 1992 -
Forest Service Review as the Federal Land Management Agency under 30 CFR
Subchapter D

Dear Mr. Haddock:

The minerals staffs of both the Fishlake and Manti-La Sal National Forests have reviewed the SUFCO Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP). In general, the resource information provided in the plan is dated. New information was acquired for the Quitchupah lease tract that has applicability for the entire permit area. The plan should be revised to include the most up-to-date information available, as discussed below. Note that incorporation of monitoring data as an extension of baseline data is required by lease stipulation.

The following specific items must be resolved before we can consent to approval of the MRP:

Item 1, Chapter 3, page 3-30:

3.3.3, third paragraph. SUFCO will propose an exhaust fan for the 4 East Portal in Quitchupah Canyon. This should be proposed as a Mine Plan Amendment and removed from this MRP 5-year renewal, or should be restated to specify that future plans call for the exhaust fan and that a Mine Plan Amendment will be submitted to the surface management agency for consent before installation.

Item 2, Chapter 5, page 5-20:

Fifth paragraph. In addition to sealing pillars, SUFCO agreed for the Quitchupah Lease Tract to backfill entries under streams, if required by the regulator authority. Backfilling will provide support, which is a critical consideration in addition to sealing. The previous agreement to backfilling should be added to this MRP.

Item 3, Chapter 5, plate 5-7:

This map shows three longwall panels extending beyond the escarpment of the Castlegate Sandstone. Mining beyond the 15 degree angle of draw from the top of the Castlegate Sandstone escarpment can not be approved until a site specific environmental analysis is completed addressing each location.

Item 4, Chapter 3, Biology:

Vegetative monitoring is required by lease stipulation. Include a plan to monitor the effects of subsidence on vegetation. Evaluation of vegetative trends using color infrared air photos taken in 5 year intervals is an acceptable method.

Item 5, Chapter 7, page 7-9:

The second paragraph states that the low water level in the aquifer is not the result of mining activities. Data are needed to support this statement.

Item 6, Appendix 2-2, page 37:

Standard for successful revegetation is 90% of the vegetative ground cover of the immediately surrounding areas, and include no noxious weeds. This is from 30 CFR 817.111 and 817.116.

The following items must also be addressed:

Item 7, Chapter 1, page 1-9:

The current address for the Fishlake National Forest is 115 East 900 North. The current address for the Manti-La Sal National Forest is 599 West Price River Drive.

Item 8, Chapter 1, page 1-11:

Correct addresses, as for page 1-9.

Item 9, Chapter 2, page 2-2:

2.20, first line: add "at the southern end of the Wasatch Plateau."

Item 10, Chapter 3, page 3-18:

Species of High Federal and State Interest. Add information about sage grouse. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources considers sage grouse as a high interest species and has spent a lot of money reintroducing sage grouse into the Quitcupah area. The Forest Service has built guzzlers to provide a continuous supply of water for the grouse.

Item 11, Chapter 3, page 3-20:

The status of the Lynx is not included in the chart. Indicate the current status.

Item 12, Chapter 4, page 4-2:

This vegetation data should be updated to include the Quitcupah lease tract.

Item 13, Chapter 4, page 4-6:

Cultural and Historic Resources Information. Provide documentation of concurrence on this work by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO).

Item 14, Chapter 4, page 4-8:

Last paragraph. Update the management goals with those in the current Land and Resource Management Plans of the Fishlake and Manti-La Sal National Forests.

Item 15, Chapter 5, page 5-13 (Buffer Zone Markers):

Box Canyon is also a perennial stream, as stated in 5-20. It should also be marked prior to mining.

Item 16, Appendix 1-1:

Why are the standard stipulations for the Hawk's Nest Mine in Gunnison Co., Colorado in here?

Item 17, Appendix 3-2, page 11:

80 meters is not greater than 600 feet.

Item 18, Appendix 3-3:

This needs to be updated. It was done in 1980. It should be expanded to include the information on new lease areas.

Item 19, Appendix 3-3, page 10:

Table 1. Add common names, in addition to the Latin names.

Item 20, Appendix 3-3, page 11:

There is no Felis rufus; it is Lynx rufus.

Item 21, Appendix 3-3, page 33:

The mule deer population may no longer be on the increase. Need to update this section.

Item 22, Appendix 3-3, page 44:

Update the information on subsidence impacts to include new lease areas.

Item 23, Appendix 3-3, page 46:

Update the section on noise. There is now an exhaust fan planned for the 4 East Portal in Quitchupah Canyon (same as Item 1).

Item 24, Appendix 3-3, page 50:

Exception No. 1. Need to expand to include the Manti-La Sal National Forest.

Item 25, Appendix 3-3, page 55:

Top of page. There is now an exhaust fan planned for Quitchupah Canyon. Update the noise impacts (same as Item 1).

Item 26, Appendix 5-4, 1990 Subsidence Report:
Introduction. Where are Maps 1 and 2?

Item 27, Appendix 7-2:
Update this section. There is nothing on the Quitchupah lease tract.

If there are any questions, please contact us at (801) 637-2817.

Sincerely,



For
GEORGE A. MORRIS
Forest Supervisor
Manti-La Sal National Forest

cc:
D-2
P.Kilbourne
Fishlake NF