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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

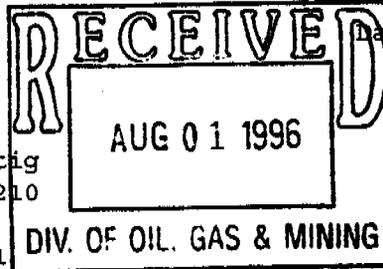
Forest  
Service

Manti-La Sal  
National Forest

599 West Price River Dr.  
Price, Utah 84501

Reply to: 2820

Utah Coal Regulatory Program  
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
Attention: Pamela Grubaugh-Littig  
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210  
P.O. Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801



Date: July 30, 1996

RE: Southern Utah Fuel Company (SUFCO), Convulsion Canyon Mine, Mitigation Plan  
for Box Pond

*ACT/041/002 #2*

*Copy [unclear],  
[unclear], Joe [unclear]*

Dear Ms. Littig:

We received a copy SUFCO's letter to Peter Hess, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining in regard to the mitigation plan for Box Pond. This letter is in response to Peter's telephone request for Forest Service consent.

We reviewed the proposal and consent to SUFCO's proposal to apply two inches of bentonite to Box Pond during the 1997 field season to provide sealing capabilities in the event that surface cracks result from mining-induced subsidence. In addition, we agree with SUFCO's assessment that continued subsidence in sequential longwall panels will probably restore the flow gradient of surface water at the head of Box Canyon. However, if the gradient and flow of Box Canyon, or attempts to restore water impoundments to their pre-mining function are not successful, SUFCO will be required to propose alternative measures for water replacement and implement approved measures for as long as necessary to provide an adequate water supply to grazing operations consistent with pre-mining conditions.

SUFCO has proposed to conduct the required cultural resource survey in the vicinity of the alcove site in 1997. The survey must be completed during the 1996 field season to allow adequate time to develop and review a mitigation plan, and prepare an environmental analysis, if needed.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeff DeFreest (District Geologist, Ferron-Price Ranger District) or Stan McDonald (Forest Archaeologist) at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Price.

Sincerely,



for  
JANETTE S. KAISER  
Forest Supervisor

cc:

D-2/3

Peter Hess, DOGM, 451 East 400 North, Price, Utah 84501

Ken May, Southern Utah Fuel Co., 397 South 800 West, Salina, Utah 84654