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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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August 2, 1999

TO: File

THRU: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor *DQH*

FROM: Michael Suflita, Reclamation Hydrologist *MS*

RE: 160 Acre Incidental Boundary Change, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC, SUFCO Mine, ACT/041/002-99C, File #2, Sevier County, Utah.

SUMMARY

On July 8, 1999, the Division received an application to amend the existing Mining and Reclamation Plan by adding 160 acres to the current permit boundary. The submittal did not contain any hydrology information so more information was submitted on July 16, 1999. An application was also sent to the BLM to expand the lease and that application was included in the submittal. BLM approval has not yet been received. This Technical Analysis is a review of the hydrologic aspects of the 160 acre Incidental Boundary Change only.

OPERATION PLAN

HYDROLOGIC INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference R645-301-731

Analysis:

The Applicant has submitted this Incidental Boundary Change (IBC) in order to facilitate orderly transition of mining from the existing Quitcupah Lease into the new Pines Tract Lease. They were the successful bidders on the new lease. The boundary change is needed to drive seven development mains from the existing mine complex into the new mining area in preparation for full scale long wall mining. The layout is shown on Plate 5-7, Upper Hiawatha Mine Plan 5-Year Projection. The permit boundary changes are shown on that map and Plate 5-6, Land Ownership and Permit Area Map.

About 286,000 tons of coal is expected to be removed during this exploration access activity. Typical groundwater encountered at the Sufco Mine is expected here as well. That is, localized paleochannels in the sandstone can be expected. These are soon drained due to their limited horizontal and vertical extent. Due to the limited area and amount of mining in this phase, it's expected that there will be minimal disturbance to the hydrologic balance and no material damage outside the permit area.

The IBC submittal also contained Appendix 7-18, Investigation of Surface-Water and Groundwater Systems in the Pines Tract Area, Sevier County, Utah: Probable Hydrologic Consequences of Coal Mining in the Pines Tract and Recommendations for Surface Water and Groundwater Monitoring. This includes substantial groundwater and surface water monitoring data that has been collected during the last few years. As the title indicates, this is a comprehensive treatment of the entire new lease area and contains sufficient information to make these findings on the 160 acre IBC. A separate technical review of the document will be required as part of the Pines Tract mining submittal which is not part of this permitting action.

Findings:

The submittal meets the minimum requirements of this section of the regulations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The submittal can be approved in its present form.