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State of Utah  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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August 2, 1999

Kenneth E. May, General Manager  
Canyon Fuel Company, LLC  
SUFCO Mine  
397 South 8th West  
Salina, Utah 84564

Re: Conditional Approval of 160 Acre Incidental Boundary Change, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC,  
SUFCO Mine, ACT/041/002-99C, Folder #2, Sevier County, Utah

Dear Mr. May:

The Division has completed our review of your application to permit 160 acres as an incidental boundary change at the SUFCO mine. We have determined that you have met all of the requirements and your application is hereby conditionally approved contingent upon consent from the U. S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. Please see the attached Technical Analysis.

The right-of-way from the BLM will need to be obtained before proceeding with any mining activity within the 160 acre area. A copy will need to be forwarded to us as soon as it is obtained. Upon our receipt, a permit revised to include the 160 acre IBC will be issued. Please submit 8 clean copies (redline/strikeout removed) of the submittal for insertion to the Mining and Reclamation Plan.

If you have any questions please call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daron R. Haddock".

Daron R. Haddock  
Permit Supervisor

tam

cc: Richard Manus, BLM  
Janette Kaiser, USFS  
Price Field Office

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**State of Utah  
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
Utah Coal Regulatory Program**



**TECHNICAL ANALYSIS  
160 ACRE INCIDENTAL BOUNDARY CHANGE  
CANYON FUEL COMPANY  
SUFCO MINE  
ACT/041/002  
AUGUST 2, 1997**

**TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:**

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

**RIGHT OF ENTRY**

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-114

**Analysis:**

The applicant needs to supply right of entry information in compliance with R645-301-114. This includes information about the documents granting right of entry together with the date these were executed and the rights given.

The application says a copy of federal coal lease UTU-76195 granting the right to enter and begin underground mining operations is presented in Appendix 1-2, and it also says this lease was approved in June 1999 with the Bureau of Land Management right of way. Information submitted with the incidental boundary change application, but not as part of the application, includes a June 23, 1999, application to the Bureau of Land Management for a right of way. However, there is no indication the Bureau of Land Management has granted this right of way. Also, the cover letter from Canyon Fuel to the Bureau of Land Management indicates lease UTU-76195 has not yet been issued. This is contrary to the information in the application.

**Findings:**

Information provided in the proposal is not considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations. Prior to final approval, the applicant must supply the following in accordance with:

**R645-301-114**, The applicant needs to submit complete right of entry information.

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-322

**Analysis:**

The Division requires no information beyond that contained in the current mining and reclamation plan. Maps in the current plan and in annual reports show raptor nests in the area, but these maps do not show other kinds of wildlife habitat outside the current disturbed area. Since no surface disturbance is anticipated, however, the Division does not require further information.

**Findings:**

Information provided in the proposal is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

## **LAND USE RESOURCE INFORMATION**

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-411

**Analysis:**

While Plate 4-1 and the text do not include detailed information about land use, they are considered adequate for this amendment. Plate 4-1 shows land use information, and this plate includes information for the proposed addition to the permit area. Land uses are wildlife habitat, grazing, and forestry.

**Findings:**

Information provided in the proposal is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

## **OPERATION PLAN**

### **PROTECTION OF PUBLIC PARKS AND HISTORIC PLACES**

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-411.140

**Analysis:**

The Permittee met the minimum requirements of this section.

## MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF MINING OPERATIONS

### Analysis:

The Permittee modified Plate 5-7 Upper Hiawatha Mine Plan 5 Year Projection to show the proposed 160 IBC. Mining in the 160 IBC is schedule to begin in December 1999.

### Findings:

The Permittee met the minimum requirements of this section.

## 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 Quitchupah 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