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3482
U-63214
(UT-070)

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AUG 17 1999

Wesley K. Sorensen
Technical Services Manager
Canyon Fuel Company, LLC
SUFCO Mine
397 South 800 West
Salina, Utah 84654

ACT/04/002 #2
Copy Baron

Re: SUFCO Mine, Resource Recovery and Protection Plan (R2P2), 150-Acre Modification to Federal Coal Leases U-63214, Minor Modification Request

Dear Mr. Sorensen:

On July 1, 1999, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received a written request from Canyon Fuel Company (CFC) to modify the approved R2P2 for the SUFCO Mine. The modification involves the addition 150 acres to Federal coal lease U-63214. The approximately 3.4 million tons of recoverable coal reserves affected are located in the Upper Hiawatha Seam in Federal coal lease U-63214.

The 150-acre coal lease modification application lies outside of the current approved mining plan (R2P2). If not mined in association with the Quitcupah lease (approved SUFCO Mine Permit Area) or Pines Coal Lease Tract, the coal within this area would be by-passed, since it is cut-off physiographically from the Muddy Creek Tract by Box and Muddy Canyons. The extension of the 14 Left longwall panel is a logical and prudent method for mining the recoverable coal reserves within the 150-acre coal lease modification area. BLM has analyzed the situation and reviewed all supporting documentation. The results of the analysis indicate that the proposed minor modification to the SUFCO Mine Resource Recovery and Protection Plan is approved for the 150- acre coal lease modification (Federal coal lease U-63214). This approval does not pertain to or affect, in any fashion, Federal coal lease UTU-76195.

The BLM has determined that this change to the mining plan (R2P2) is in compliance with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, the regulations at 43 CFR 3480, the lease terms and stipulations, and will achieve maximum economic recovery (MER) of the Federal coal. The proposed change will extract an additional 3.4 million tons of coal which will be added to the recoverable reserve base.

For further information, contact Mr. George Tetreault at (801) 636-3604.

Sincerely,

THOMAS E. RASIGSEN
For
Richard L. Manus
Field Office Manager

Enclosure
Map (1pg)

bcc: UT-070, George Tetreault

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