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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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September 16, 1999

James Dykman
Utah State Historic Preservation Office
300 Rio Grande
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

Re: Formal Request for Consultation and Concurrence on Permitting Action (150 Acre IBC), Canyon Fuel Company, LLC, SUFCO Mine, ACT/041/002-SR98(2), Folder #2, Sevier County, Utah

Dear Mr. Dykman:

This is a formal request for consultation on Canyon Fuel Company, LLC's proposed underground mining in a 150-acre area east of Box Canyon to the north of their current permit area for the SUFCO Mine. A cultural resources survey conducted June 23-25, 1999, discovered a previously unidentified rock shelter in the area that would be undermined. This rock shelter was designated 42sv 2492.

According to the report from the consultant, AERC, debitage and broken bone fragments were the only artifacts observed on the site, but because of the amount of sand that has blown in, they considered it to have excellent potential for containing intact and sealed features and/or occupations. The site has not been disturbed by vandals. AERC considered the site to be a significant resource with excellent potential for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places due to its pristine condition, depth potential, and research potential.

The shelter has a 15-meter wide sandstone arched roof that may be susceptible to damage from subsidence. We do not know the condition of the roof, such as its thickness or whether cracks are present, so we are uncertain what the likelihood is that it would be damaged by subsidence.

Various options for protecting the site or mitigating potential damage from subsidence have been discussed with the mine operator and with the land manager, the Forest Service; however, the Division needs your assistance in deciding which option to pursue. Therefore, we formally request consultation on this issue.

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To avoid losing the coal in this lease modification area, CFC needs approval to begin development mining by about October 1, 1999. They have requested that we consider approving the lease for mining that would not allow subsidence. Full extraction mining would follow some time next year if approved. This would allow the mine to develop the area for future mining and give time for the various agencies to decide what action needs to be taken and for any mitigation to be done.

We feel there would be no danger to the rock shelter if full support mining was allowed, and we request your concurrence. If you have any questions or need further information please call me (538-5325), Pam Grubaugh-Littig (538-5268), or Paul Baker (538-5261).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daron R. Haddock". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Daron R. Haddock
Permit Supervisor