



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Manti-La Sal
National Forest

Supervisor's Office
599 West Price River Drive
Price, UT 84501
Phone # (435) 637-2817
Fax # (435) 637-4940

File Code: 2820-4

Date: April 6, 2000

Mary Ann Wright
Utah Department of Natural Resources
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
P.O. Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

Incoming
ACT/04/00

RE: Amendment to Move the Link Canyon Substation, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC, SUFCO Mine

Dear Mary Ann:

The Manti-La Sal National Forest has completed a review of Canyon Fuel Company's proposal to move the SUFCO Mine Link Canyon substation approximately 2,000 feet to the north of the originally approved location.

A review of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact, dated 8/31/98, determined that the amendment is consistent with the original analysis and decision. Therefore, it is not necessary to prepare a new Environmental Assessment. A copy of the Supplemental Information Report is enclosed for your information.

The Manti-La Sal National Forest hereby concurs/consents to approval of the amendment by the Division, subject to the mitigations described in the EA. Construction of the substation may begin immediately upon receipt of this letter. The Forest is working with Utah Power and Light Company (PacifiCorp) to amend the Special-Use Permit to authorize construction of the powerline extension to the new substation location. The wildlife restrictions regarding construction activities between December 1 and August 15 would still apply for subsequent years, but would not apply to normal maintenance of the substation.

The Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP) needs to be supplemented with information regarding the restrictions on construction activities in Link Canyon and clarification is needed regarding the level of activity needed for normal maintenance. Canyon Fuel must address the number of anticipated trips to the substation during the winter months and wildlife restriction period, as well as what type of vehicles and equipment would be needed.

RECEIVED

APR 10 2000

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS AND MINING



Powerline and Substation Supplemental Information Report

Additional raptor studies were made of the potential impact areas in 1999 (Mining and Reclamation Plan SUFCO Mine Amendment, November 1999, appendix 3-4, Raptor and General Avifauna Studies). Environmental Industrial Services (EIS) completed an additional Raptor Survey in March 2000 for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR). There was no raptor activity observed. Based on this information, the DWR does not feel that the proposed construction of the substation and power line would negatively impact the productivity of the raptor nests in Link Canyon (letter 03/31/2000). The USF&WS concurs with this conclusion.

Supplemental Information

The following information is available for inspection at the Ferron Price Ranger district on the Manti-La Sal National Forest, 599 West Price River Drive, Price, Utah 84501.

Cultural/Historical survey/report, SUFCO Mine Plan Amendment, Appendix 4-2, November 1999.

Supplemental Biological information, SUFCO Mine Plan Amendment, Appendix 3-4, November 1999.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources completed additional Raptor Surveys in March 2000. Documentation of survey and contacts with the DWR and USF&WS are in the Project File (letter 03/31/2000).

Findings By Responsible Official Based on Consideration of New Information

I have reviewed the new information and the Interdisciplinary Team's review. I have considered this information within the overall context of the project analysis and decision. This analysis complies with 40 CFR 1502.9 (c), and the Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, section 18.1, "Review and Documentation of New Information Received After a Decision Has Been Made." I find the new information and its effects to be within the context of the project's environmental analysis and decision, based on the following rationale.

The ID team identified only two areas of potential concern. They are potential effects to Cultural/Historical resources and occupancy/nesting of raptors. The assessment of effects and findings previously described indicate following the stipulations and requirements in the existing NEPA and decision documents will adequately protect these resources.

Considering the above rationale, I believe the analysis in the EA adequately displayed the effects of the Selected Alternative on the environment.

Powerline and Substation Supplemental Information Report

Nothing in the new information demonstrates that the project will affect the quality of the human environment in a significant manner or significant extent not already considered in the underlying documents. I find that the new information and its effects would be within the context of the projects Environmental Analysis and Decision Notice/ FONSI. Consequently, I find no need to correct, supplement, or revise the environmental document of the 8/31/98 decision. The Selected Alternative and its effects are consistent with Forest Plan objectives for the affected area. Implementation of the project may proceed. All elements of the original Decision Notice/FONSI remain in effect and unchanged. The findings in this Supplemental Information Report (SIR) are not appealable under the Forest Service appeal regulations.

This SIR is to be retained in the project record. The construction on this project may take place immediately.



Jeff Walter
Acting Forest Supervisor

cc: Project folder



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Manti-La Sal
National Forest

Supervisor's Office
599 West Price River Drive
Price, UT 84501
Phone # (435) 637-2817
Fax # (435) 637-4940

File Code: 2720
Route To: 1950

Date: April 5, 2000

Subject: Review and Documentation of New Information Regarding the Link Canyon Power line and Substation for the SUFCO Mine

To: District Ranger Ferron/Price Ranger District

Pursuant to 40 CFR1502.9(c), Forest Service Manual 1950, and procedures in Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, section 18.1, the Link Canyon Interdisciplinary (ID) Team reviewed and considered new information relating to the environmental impacts of the Selected Alternative. Members of the team who reviewed this information included specialists in Wildlife, Minerals and Energy, Geology, Special Uses, Cultural/Historical, NEPA. This new information came to my attention after issuance of the Decision Notice for the Link Canyon Power line on National Forest System Administered Lands.

The selected Alternative, Alternative 2, is described in the Decision Notice (DN), dated 8/31/98, and its effects are disclosed in the Environmental Assessment for the Link Canyon Power line.

New Information

Canyon Fuel encountered naturally burning coal and high temperatures while attempting to break out at the originally approved substation location. They needed to extend the power line and move the substation location about 2000 feet up canyon to avoid the burned coal. On January 21, 2000, Pacificorp submitted a request to amend their Special Use Permit to extend the existing power line (constructed in 1998) by an additional 6-7 power poles up Link Canyon (approximately 2000 lineal feet). Canyon Fuel Company, LLC submitted a Mine Plan amendment to the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, to change the location of the substation (up canyon about 2000 feet) that will supply power to the SUFCO mine. The proposed construction is for the spring of 2000.

Assessment of Effects

Additional Cultural/Historical surveys were made of the potential impact areas (Mining and Reclamation Plan SUFCO Mine Amendment, November 1999, appendix 4-2, Cultural and Historical Resources). This report recommends that a cultural clearance be granted to Canyon Fuel to enable the development of facilities based on adherence with the stipulations contained in the original 1997 inventory report. As a precaution, an archeologist will be required to visit the site to identify areas to avoid during construction if needed.



Powerline and Substation Supplemental Information Report

Nothing in the new information demonstrates that the project will affect the quality of the human environment in a significant manner or significant extent not already considered in the underlying documents. I find that the new information and its effects would be within the context of the projects Environmental Analysis and Decision Notice/ FONSI. Consequently, I find no need to correct, supplement, or revise the environmental document of the 8/31/98 decision. The Selected Alternative and its effects are consistent with Forest Plan objectives for the affected area. Implementation of the project may proceed. All elements of the original Decision Notice/FONSI remain in effect and unchanged. The findings in this Supplemental Information Report (SIR) are not appealable under the Forest Service appeal regulations.

This SIR is to be retained in the project record. The construction on this project may take place immediately.



Jeff Walter
Acting Forest Supervisor

cc: Project folder