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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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January 13, 2000

TO: Internal File

THRU: Pete Hess, Team Lead

FROM: David Darby, Senior Reclamation Specialist

RE: Link Canyon Breakout, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC, SUFCO Mine, ACT/041/002-99G

SUMMARY:

On December 6, 1999, the Division received plans from SUFCO Company, LLC to construct an electrical substation in Link Canyon. A permit was previously issued on January 11, 1999 for a substation (Link Canyon Substation #1) 0.4 miles down the canyon from this proposed location. SUFCO was forced to halt development and abandon the project when drilling operations contacted high temperatures from the burning coal seam. The updated plans describe a new site where drilling and surface facilities for the substation (Link Canyon Substation #2) will be developed. The plans supply the requisite hydrologic information along with maps and data to make the findings.

The information submitted in this application is not complete. Supplemental information is required prior to approval of the amendment.

OPERATION PLAN

HYDROLOGIC INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-742, -301-761.

Analysis

The operator submitted Plate 5-2E identifying the extent of the watershed boundary above the Substation #2 pad. There are no standing or flowing surface water resources in the immediate vicinity of the Substation #2. The channel in Link Canyon is ephemeral. The disturbed area boundary is 0.21 acres. The undisturbed drainage above the substation is

approximately 25.8 acres. A diversion ditch, sized to transport the runoff from a 10 yr-6 hr precipitation event, will route undisturbed drainage around the disrobed area, collect runoff from ALCA's #4 and #7. The collected flow will be transported down to the roadway drainage then into the main channel. Berms, gravel and silt fences will control and filter the remaining 0.12 ac. of disrobed area drainage from Substation #2.

The operator calculated a peak runoff volume of 0.2 cfs from the 25.8 acre undisturbed area above the Substation #2 . A summary of the figures used to calculate the 10 yr- 6 hr precipitation event is shown in Appendix 7-13.

Findings

The designs are unclear (page 7-28) as to the route the undisturbed runoff takes after leaving the undisturbed drainage ditch, whether it flows down the road or across the road. In either case the applicant should provide information on both the drainage course and erosion protection of the channel. A culvert with down-slope protection should be provided if the drainage is transmitted across the road. If the drainage is directed down the road, the applicant should ensure that the ditch is sized and protected until it crosses the road.

Plate 5-2E shows an earthen berm around the pad to contain rainfall on the disturbed pad site. The drawing needs to show how water will be prevented from flowing down the pad access road, causing erosion and sedimentation. If there is any potential for water from the pad to overtop the water containment berm, sediment control measures must be developed to prevent off-site sediment migration.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Prior to approval the above information should be addressed and submitted.

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