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

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April 10, 2000

TO: Internal File

THRU: Dave Darby, Team Lead 

FROM: James D. Smith, Reclamation Specialist 

RE: Technical Analysis - Geology - of the Pines Tract Significant Revision, Canyon Fuel Company LLC, SUFCO Mine, ACT/041/002 - SR99D-3

**SUMMARY:**

The proposed Pines Tract Lease significant revision to the SUFCO Mine MRP was received by the Division on July 16, 1999. This significant revision is for the addition of Federal Lease UTU-76195, the Pines Tract Lease, to the SUFCO Mine permit area. The Division sent a letter to the permittee, Canyon Fuel Company, on September 7, 1999 indicating the Division had determined the amendment to be administratively incomplete: the permittee submitted additional information on October 18, 1999 and the Division determined that with the new information the submittal was Administratively Complete and ready for Technical Analysis by Division personnel.

The most recent TA was dated February 4, 2000, and the permittee's responses to that TA were received at the Division on March 9 and 13. There were two deficiencies concerning coal recovery identified in the February TA, and both have been satisfactorily addressed in these March submittals. There are no further deficiencies under Chapter 6 - Geology - of the Coal Mining Rules. Information on geology is considered adequate to meet the requirements of the Coal Mining Rules.

**TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:**

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION**

**GEOLOGIC RESOURCE INFORMATION**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.22; R645-301-623, -301-724.

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TECHNICAL MEMO

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**Analysis:**

Changes to the text have been made on pages 6-iii, 6-2, 6-4, 6-5, 6-7 through 6-10, and 6-12 of Chapter 6. The changes are minor and generally either clarify statements already in the MRP or expand statements to include the Pines tract. Four drill logs have been added to Appendix 6-1 and several analyses of coal and rock have been added to Appendix 6-2.

Plates 6-3 and 6-4 (geologic cross-sections B-B' and C-C') have been added to show the nature, depth, and thickness of the coal seam to mined and of overlying and underlying strata. The Upper Hiawatha Seam is the only seam minable within the permit boundary (p. 6-7). The revised Plate 6-1, Geology and Drillhole Location Map, includes federal lease UTU-76195 within the permit boundary and shows the locations of the two new cross-sections.

There is a plugged and abandoned gas well in the Pines tract in Sec 23, T. 21 S., R. 5 E.

The permittee states that detailed geologic information is in the R2P2 on file with the BLM. The BLM requested in a letter to UDOGM, dated February 4, 2000 (a similar letter, dated March 13, 2000, was sent to Ken May of SUFCO) that a new R2P2 be prepared for the Pines tract significant revision. SUFCO has prepared a new R2P2 for the Pines Tract Lease.

**Findings:**

Information on geologic resources is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section.

**MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF RESOURCE INFORMATION**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 783.24, 783.25; R645-301-323, -301-411, -301-521, -301-622, -301-722, -301-731.

**Analysis:**

**Coal Resource and Geologic Information Maps**

Plates 6-3 and 6-4 (geologic cross-sections B-B' and C-C') have been added. The revised Plate 6-1, Geology and Drillhole Location Map, includes federal lease UTU-76195 within the permit boundary and shows the locations of the two new cross-sections. Detailed geologic information is in the R2P2 on file with the BLM

Revised Plate 5-11 shows overburden isopach thickness for the SUFCO mine area, including the Pines tract. Revised Plate 5-10 shows the limits of anticipated subsidence for the same area.

Plate 5-7 the current MRP shows projected mining through the year 2004, plus outlines of additional longwall panels that are apparently projected for recovery at some time after 2004. Plate 5-7

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**TECHNICAL MEMO**

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indicates only about half of the Pines Tract Lease will be mined. In Section 5.2.2, Coal Recovery, the permittee states that mining is not planned for the extreme east and southeast portions of the Pines Tract because of poor coal quality and insufficient seam height for the longwall equipment being used. Coal has also been lost to burn under several areas in the tract. The permittee states that the R2P2 on file with the BLM contains detailed mine plan and reserves calculations.

**Findings:**

Information on coal resource and geologic information maps is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Based on a Technical Analysis of the Geologic and Coal Resource Information, it is recommended the sections under R645-301-600 of the proposed Pines Tract Lease Significant Revision to the SUFCO Mining and Reclamation Plan be approved.

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