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

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April 29, 2002

TO: Internal File
FROM: Stephen J. Demczak, Sr. Reclamation Specialist/Engineering, Team Lead
RE: Muddy Tract Coal Exploration, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC, SUFCO Mine, C/041/002-EX02D

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SUMMARY:

Arch Coal Inc. is submitting a Notice of Intent to conduct Minor Coal Exploration on behalf of Canyon Fuel Company, LLC-SUFCO Mine. The permittee is proposing to drill one hole into the coal seam. The coal is under the jurisdiction of the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SILTA). The United States Forest Service is the surface owner.

The exploration will take place on the Muddy Tract Coal Lease, seven miles from the town of Emery. The permittee will approximately remove 100 to 175 lbs. of coal from this drill hole.

The permittee plans to start drilling in the second week of July 2002. It is planned that the project will take four weeks from start to finish, including the reclamation of the drill site. This may vary due to weather conditions.

COAL EXPLORATION

Regulatory Reference: R645-200.

SCOPE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 772.1; 30 CFR 772.10; 30 CFR 772.11; R645-100-400; R645-200-100; R645-200-200; R645-201-100.

EXPLORATION TECH MEMO

Analysis:

Ark land Company has submitted information to address the requirements of the state program and to meet requirements of R645-200 through R645-203. The permittee has classified this action as a Notice of Intention to Conduct Minor Coal Exploration and to comply with the State Program. The permittee has specified that certain material is not to be available to the public.

Findings:

The information given is to address the requirement of State program and R645-200 through R645-203. The information that was submitted is complete.

REQUIREMENTS FOR NOTICE OF INTENTION TO CONDUCT MINOR COAL EXPLORATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 772.10; 30 CFR 772.11; R645-100-412; R645-201-200.

Analysis:

R645-201-221; This coal rule requires the applicant to give name, address, and telephone number of the applicant's representatives, who will be present at and responsible for conducting the exploration operations. This information was within the Notice of Intent.

R645-100-400, R645-200-100, R645-200-200, and R645-201-100; Ark Land Company has given a Notice of Intention to Conduct Minor Coal Exploration with a narrative and map describing the exploration area and indicating where the exploration will occur.

The permittee will transport all drilling equipment, materials, and personnel by rubber tire equipment, except a D-8 cat will be used for road work and to level off the drill site. The access to the drill site will be by using existing US Forest Service development roads. A short access road will be constructed from U.S. Forest Service development road #044.

The drill site will be approximately 0.23 acres of disturbance. Earth excavation for the drill site will be by using a D-8 Cat dozer. Additional work will be done using a trackhoe and /or rubber-tired backhoe. The excavation will include removal and storage of the soil A-horizon. Material below the A-horizon will be stored separately. One of the two mud pits will be below the A-horizon.

EXPLORATION TECH MEMO

The exploration will take place on the Muddy Tract Coal Lease, seven miles from the town of Emery. The permittee will remove approximately 100 to 175 lbs. of coal from this drill hole. This will be achieved by drilling a 3-3/16 inch diameter hole. Upon completion, the drill hole will be sealed with cement/bentonite from the bottom of the hole to ground level.

The permittee plans to start drilling in the second week of July 2002. It is planned that the project will take four weeks from start to finish, including the reclamation of the drill site. This may vary due to weather conditions.

Findings:

The applicant has given all of the necessary information as requirements of R645-201-221 such as name, address, and telephone number.

The permittee has submitted the necessary information to comply with regulations R645-100-400, R645-200-100, R645-200-200, and R645-201-100 in the analysis.

COMPLIANCE DUTIES

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 772.13; R645-202.

Ark Land Company will disturb the natural land surface while conducting the exploration of the additional drill hole. The drill hole site will be located in an area requiring some leveling. Drilling equipment and material will be brought in by rubber tire equipment to the sites except for the D-8 Cat dozer. This will be used for 1,300 ft of road construction and drill hole site preparation. The permittee will remove vegetation at the drill site.

The operator has committed in the Notice of Intent to clean-up spills and to scarify and seed all disturbed areas.

Findings:

The information submitted complies with the requirements of R645-202-100.

OPERATIONAL STANDARDS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 772.13; R645-202-100.

Analysis:

EXPLORATION TECH MEMO

Roads

R645-202-232; Ark Land Company will use existing U.S. Forest Service Development Roads to conduct exploration. The roads that will be used are development roads #044 and #007. The permittee will also obtain a Road Use Permit from the U.S. Forest Service. This permit contains a bond in case the roads are damaged.

A short access road will be constructed from FDR #044 to the drill site as shown on Map 3. The road follows an existing wheel track that provides access to a cattle pond. The road would be widened to 14 ft. and smoothed. Road length is approximately 1300 ft. This road will be used for a short period of time. The timetable on Page 4 shows the road will be reclaimed in the fourth week of the drilling project. Therefore, this road will not be a primary road due to the short life span of the road. The acreage to be disturbed for roadwork will be 0.48 acres.

Findings:

The information submitted meets the minimum of this section.

RECLAMATION STANDARDS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 772.13; R645-202-200.

Analysis:

Approximate original contour

Ark Land Company will scrape off the vegetation and remove the topsoil from the drill site. The total disturbed area, including the upgrade of an existing road and drill pad, is 0.71 acres.

Boreholes

The main drill hole diameter will be 3-3/16 inches diameter. The depth of the hole will be approximately 1,400 feet with 200 to 300 feet of surface casing.

Upon completion of the drilling, the hole will be plugged with cement or cement/bentonite slurry to its full depth. The collar of the monitor well will be identified as to hole number and operator. A brass tag will be placed at the top of the drill hole stating the operator's name, drill hole number, and legal description.

Facilities and Equipment

R645-202-244 through R645-202-244.300: All drilling equipment and materials will be removed from the drill area once drilling is completed. Sealing will start thereafter, and all equipment and material for sealing the drill hole will be removed, when sealing is completed.

No facilities are to be built during this exploration program.

Findings:

The minimum requirements of this section of the Notice of Intention to Conduct Minor Exploration have been met.

PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 772.15;R645-203.

Analysis:

Ark Land Company has requested that the Division not make any drilling information available for public inspection relative to coal seam thickness or quality.

Findings:

The permittee has met the minimum requirements of this section in the Notice of Intent.

RECOMMENDATION:

The information submitted meets the minimum requirements under the Notice of Intention to Conduct Minor Coal Exploration. Therefore, this Notice of Intention to Conduct Minor Coal Exploration is recommended for approval.