



Canyon Fuel Company, LLC
SUFCO Mine
397 South 800 West
Salina, UT 84654
(435) 286-4880 Fax: (435) 286-4499

June 4, 2003

Ms. Pamela Grubaugh-Littig
Utah Coal Program
Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
P. O. Box 145801
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5801

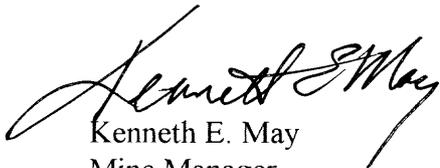
Re: Link Canyon Portal M&RP Permit Amendment, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC, SUFCO
Mine C/041/002-AM02E

Dear Ms. Grubaugh-Littig:

The enclosed copy of the Mt. Nebo Scientific report "Vegetation of the Link Canyon Portal Surface Facilities Area" was missing in the copy of the approved M&RP Amendment sent to the mine on January 21, 2003. This copy of the report is being resubmitted to receive the Division Incorporated stamp dated January 21, 2003 so that we can update the approved copy of the Link Canyon Portal M&RP Permit Amendment at the minesite.

Thank you for your help in completing this permitting action. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Dave Darby at the Division or Mike Davis at (435) 286-4421.

Sincerely,
CANYON FUEL COMPANY, LLC
SUFCO Mine



Kenneth E. May
Mine Manager

KEM/MLD:kb

Encl.

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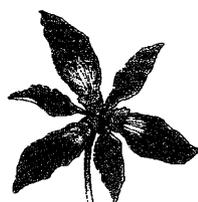
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UTAH DIVISION OF OIL, GAS & MINING

APPENDIX 2-9

Link Canyon Portal Vegetation, Aquatic Fauna, and Soil Investigations

Vegetation of the
Link Canyon Portal
Surface Facilities Area



Prepared by

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Springville, Utah 84663

(801) 489-6937

by

Patrick D. Collins, Ph.D.

for

CANYON FUEL COMPANY, LLC.

SUFCO MINE

397 South 800 West

Salina, Utah 84654

August 2002



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INTRODUCTION

Canyon Fuel's SUFCO Mine has proposed constructing a new portal along with other surface facilities in Link Canyon. Link Canyon is located on the east side of the southern end of the Wasatch Plateau, west of the town of Emery, Utah.

The proposed new Link Canyon Portal Area is located at an old portal site used by previous mining activities. Elevation of the area is approximately 7,600 ft above sea level. The proposed new disturbed area boundary is nearly one-quarter of an acre in size.

Construction of the of the portal and surface facilities will entail re-disturbance of the existing plant communities in the area. Plant communities of the proposed site consist primarily of two communities – riparian and pinyon-juniper. Most of these communities have been previously disturbed by the earlier mining activities.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide a general description of the plant communities that will be disturbed when the proposed mine portal and surface facilities are constructed. Additionally, two "Reference Areas", or areas chosen as success standards for final revegetation, have been mapped and marked in the field. Finally, the area was surveyed for threatened, endangered or otherwise sensitive plant species.

METHODS

The proposed new portal area in Link Canyon was visited by a biologist July 23, 2002. Field observations, species lists, vegetation mapping and identification of potential Reference Areas was conducted at that time.

RESULTS

Plant Communities

As mentioned above the proposed disturbed area is comprised primarily of a riparian and pinyon-juniper community (see "Color Photographs") both of which have been disturbed by previous mining activities. The riparian community is located on the east end of the portal area and is approximately one-third of the total area proposed for disturbance (see "Vegetation Map"). The dominant plant species in the riparian community by a far was coyote willow (*Salix*

Table 1: Plant Species of the Riparian Community at the Link Canyon Portal Area

TREE & SHRUBS

<i>Abies concolor</i>	White fir
<i>Berberis repens</i>	Oregon grape
<i>Betula occidentalis</i>	Water birch
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Red-osier dogwood
<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i>	Rock Mountain Juniper
<i>Ribes cereum</i>	Squaw current
<i>Rosa woodsii</i>	Woods Rose
<i>Salix exigua</i>	Clematis ligustifolia

FORBS

<i>Aster foliaceus</i>	Leafybract aster
<i>Cirsium</i> sp.	Thistle
<i>Iva axillaris</i>	Poverty weed
<i>Stanleya pinnata</i>	Prince's plum
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Cattail
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging nettle
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	Cocklebur

GRAMINOIDS

<i>Poa secunda</i>	Sandberg bluegrass
<i>Juncus arcticus</i>	Wiregrass

exigua). For a list of plant species occurring in this community refer to Table 1.

The pinyon-juniper community encompasses the remaining two-thirds of the west side of the proposed disturbed area (see "Vegetation Map"). Dominant plant species here were pinyon pine (*Pinus edulis*), Utah Juniper (*Juniperus osterosperma*) and Salina wildrye (*Elymus salinus*). For a list of plant species

occurring in this community refer to Table

2.

Reference Areas

Although the State of Utah, Division of Oil, Gas & Mining (DOG M) does not specifically require Reference Areas for those areas proposed for disturbance that are less than 1 acre, DOGM does require success standards for these areas. Under the circumstances it therefore seemed

prudent to delineate areas that could be used as standards for future revegetation success, rather than using other standards. Accordingly, two (2) Reference Areas, one for the riparian community and one for the pinyon-juniper community, were chosen to represent standards for

Table 2: Plant Species of the Pinyon-Juniper Community at the Link Canyon Portal Area

TREE & SHRUBS

<i>Abies concolor</i>	White fir
<i>Amalanchier utahensis</i>	Serviceberry
<i>Artemisia tridentata</i>	Big sagebrush
<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i>	Rubber rabbitbrush
<i>Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus</i>	Low rabbitbrush
<i>Ephedra viridis</i>	Mormon tea
<i>Eriogonum corymbosum</i>	Corymb buckwheat
<i>Gutierrezia sarothrae</i>	Broom snakeweed
<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i>	Rock Mountain Juniper
<i>Juniperus osterosperma</i>	Utah juniper
<i>Pinus edulis</i>	Pinyon pine
<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	Skunkbush

FORBS

<i>Cirsium</i> sp.	Thistle
<i>Iva axillaris</i>	Poverty weed
<i>Machaeranthera grindeloides</i>	Gumweed aster
<i>Penstemon rydbergii</i>	Rydberg's Penstemon
<i>Stanleya pinnata</i>	Prince's plum

GRAMINOIDS

<i>Elymus salinus</i>	Salina wildrye
<i>Stipa hymenoides</i>	Indian ricegrass

final revegetation success. These Reference Areas were in close proximity to the Link Canyon Portal and Surface Facilities Area and had almost identical geology, soils, exposures, slope angles and native plant communities to those communities in which they have been chosen to represent as standards (that is, prior to disturbance from previous mining activities). Location of the Reference Areas are shown on the Vegetation Map included in this report.

Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive Species

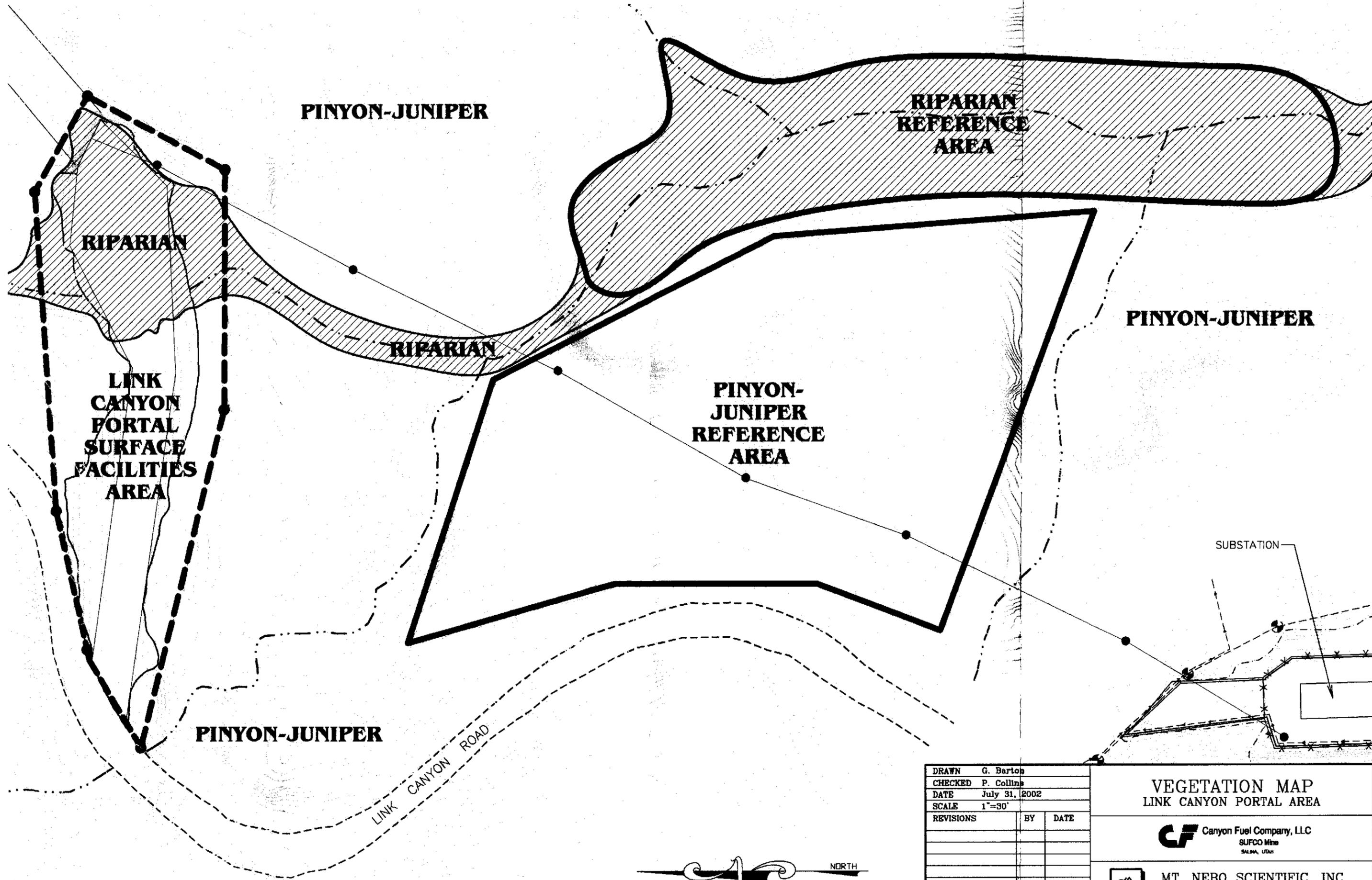
There was the potential for the Link Canyon Columbine (*Aquilegia flavescens* var. *rubicunda*), a species listed as “sensitive” by the USDA Forest Service to be present on the study site. This endemic species has been collected in Link Canyon, its type local, but was not found in the area proposed for disturbance. No other threatened, endangered, rare or otherwise sensitive plant species were found during the survey.



Link Canyon Portal & Surface Facilities Area - Riparian Community (center) & Pinyon-Juniper Community.



Link Canyon Reference Areas - Riparian Community (foreground) & Pinyon-Juniper Community.



DRAWN G. Barto		
CHECKED P. Collins		
DATE July 31, 2002		
SCALE 1"=30'		
REVISIONS	BY	DATE

VEGETATION MAP
LINK CANYON PORTAL AREA

CF Canyon Fuel Company, LLC
SUFCO Mine
SALINA, UTAH



MT. NEBO SCIENTIFIC, INC.
RESEARCH & CONSULTING
SPRINGVILLE, UTAH