



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

January 26, 2004

Mr. Daron Haddock
 Permit Supervisor
 Utah Coal Regulatory Program
 Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
 1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
 P. O. Box 145801
 Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

RE: East Fork of Box Canyon Creek Monitoring

Dear Mr. Haddock:

Canyon Fuel Company LLC, Sufco Mine, respectfully requests the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining allow the mine to temporarily suspend the East Fork of the Box Canyon flow and subsidence crack monitoring program as outlined in the mine's Mining and Reclamation Plan. As you are aware, Steve Fluke and Jerriann Ernstsens of your staff accompanied Mike Davis of Sufco, Chris Hansen of Canyon Fuel Company, Erik Petersen of Petersen Hydrologic, Inc., Tom Lloyd and Justin Bingham of the Manti-LaSal National Forest, Craig Walker of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, and Neil and Garth Frandsen of Nelco Contractors on a monitoring tour of the East Fork of Box Canyon Creek on Wednesday, January 14, 2004. The purpose of the tour was to determine the merits of continuing to monitor the area under winter conditions. Snowmobiles were required to access the area. However, portions of the access road were barren of snow in Link Canyon while deep snow was encountered on the plateau. These varied conditions will continue to make access with ATVs and/or snowmobiles difficult, at best.

The group visited both the east rim of the canyon above the Elusive Peacock Shelter and the west rim above the confluence of the East Fork with the East Fork of the East Fork of Box Canyon Creek. Steve Fluke, Craig Walker, and Erik Petersen hiked into the bottom of the canyon from the east rim to inspect the channel for cracks and flow. They reported there was flow in the stream but the snow and ice made the access, observation, and monitoring difficult. These three persons plus Chris Hansen, Jerriann Ernstsens, and Tom Lloyd accessed the creek from the east rim to observe the upper end of the monitored zone. They reported that there were some surface flows in the creek but most of the stream was frozen or ice and snow covered. The general consensus of the group was that access to the monitoring sites is problematical, the snow and ice in the stream bottom made meaningful monitoring and observation difficult, and that since the longwall had progressed to a point where most of the monitoring sites were outside the subsidence angle of draw, continued monitoring at this time of the year was not worth the safety risks to the monitoring personnel.

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Mary Ann, Steve F.

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Sufco proposes that the East Fork of Box Canyon Creek monitoring program be temporarily suspended until the spring of 2004. The actual date to revisit the monitoring sites will depend upon the snowmelt on the Pines plateau and in the canyon bottom. Sufco will monitor the access to the area and alert the appropriate agencies when it is reasonable and safe to re-enter the area. At that time, a suitable follow-up monitoring schedule would be agreed upon by the interested parties and implemented.

Sufco appreciates your help and consideration of this matter. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Mike Davis at (435) 286-4421.

Sincerely,
CANYON FUEL COMPANY, LLC
Sufco Mine



for Kenneth E. May
Mine Manager

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