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United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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DIV. OF OIL GAS & MINING

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IN REPLY REFER TO:
3482
UTU-76195
(UT-070)

Certified Mail--Return Receipt Requested

Craig Hilton
Technical Services Manager
Canyon Fuel Company, LLC
SUFCO Mine
397 South 800 West
Salina, Utah 84654

Post-it™ Fax Note	7671	Date	# of pages ▶ 3
To <i>Pam G-L</i>		From <i>STAN Poikes</i>	
Co./Dept.		Co.	
Phone #		Phone #	
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Re: Minor Modification to the Resource Recovery and Protection Plan, Sealing the South Portals, Federal Coal Lease U-0149084.

Dear Mr. Hilton:

By letter dated October 20, 2004, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received a written request from Canyon Fuel Company (CFC) to modify the approved R2P2 for the SUFCO Mine. The modification involves the construction of six seals (2 at ventilation portals and 4 at the One South Mains). The minor modification request lies within the lease boundary of U-0149084 and inside the currently approved permit area.

Background:

The minor modification has the following requests:

- The final sealing of the South Portals, SUFCO Mine
- Ventilation Portals breakouts (2 seals)
- 1 South Mains (4 seals)

BLM has analyzed the situation and reviewed all supporting documentation. The area to be sealed was inspected on December 1, 2004. All equipment has been removed from the affected area. The BLM concurs with the sealing of the South portals. The roof conditions within this area are highly unstable and safety is a prime concern. This will complete the sealing of all mined out areas within the One South Section. However, prior to lease relinquishment, CFC will delineate and mitigate, if necessary, any and all impacts on the surface and other resources. Prior to relinquishment summary reports addressing impacts to surface topography, vegetation, hydrology, private improvements and a hazardous waste certification must be submitted to allow for the surface management agency to evaluate impacts from mining. No relinquishment shall be approved until the Authorized Officer determines that the relinquishment will not impair the

public interest.

Approval:

The R2P2 is approved for the following:

The sealing of the One South Mains (4 Seals) and the South Portals (2 Seals).

NEPA:

This approval is Categorically Excluded as a minor modification to an existing mining plan because there is no new surface disturbance in this area as stated in, Overview of BLM's NEPA Process, February 1997, Appendix 2, page 2-7 (F)(7).

Reserves:

There is no effect upon the reserves.

MER and Mineral Lease Act Analysis:

Based on our analysis of the conditions present in the mine, the BLM has determined that this change to the Mining Plan (R2P2) is in compliance with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, the regulations at 43 CFR 3480, the lease terms and stipulations, and will achieve maximum economic recovery (MER) of the Federal coal.

For further information, contact Mr. Steve Falk at (435) 636-3605.

Sincerely,

JAMES F KOHLER

James F. Kohler
Chief, Solids Minerals Branch

1 Enclosure
Map (1pg)

bc: UT-070
UTU-76195

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SUFCA SouthPortalSeal.12.6

