

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

December 3, 2009

TO: Internal File

THRU: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor 

FROM: David Darby, Environmental Scientist III, Lead 

RE: Mine Yard Horizontal Burn Drilling Amendment, SUFCO, C/041/002, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC, Task ID #3450.

SUMMARY:

Canyon Fuel Company, LLC proposes to drill a horizontal borehole to identify the burnt coal zone west of the facilities area.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

GENERAL CONTENTS

MAPS AND PLANS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 777.14; R645-301-140.

Analysis:

Canyon Fuel has proposed to drill a horizontal borehole from the facilities into the rock outcrop west of the facilities area to identify the extent of the burnt coal zone. The borehole will be drilled from the surface. Only minor excavation of existing mine yard will occur. A mud pit will be constructed to allow easy access for cleaning. Cutting will be hauled to the permitted waste rock site. Upon completion of the activities the drill hole collar will be plugged with cement to a depth of approximately 50 ft. Drilling is planned to begin in December and be completed by February 26, 2010. No surface

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Findings:

The application contains the necessary components to effectuate a permit change and meets the requirements of the R645 regulations.

OPERATION PLAN

MINING OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 784.2, 784.11; R645-301-231, -301-526, -301-528.

Analysis:

The borehole will be drilled from the surface. Only minor excavation of existing mine yard will occur. A mud pit will be constructed to allow easy access for cleaning. Cutting will be hauled to the permitted waste rock site. On completion of the drilling activities, the drill hole will be plugged with cement to a depth of approximately 50 ft. Drilling is planned to begin in December and be completed by February 26, 2010. No surface

The borehole will be in the same area that is currently utilized for mining operations. No new disturbance of the permit area will be needed. There will be no change in the runoff, vegetation, or topsoil of the area.

Findings:

The application meets the requirements of the R645 regulations with regard to operational mining operations.

SPOIL AND WASTE MATERIALS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 701.5, 784.19, 784.25, 817.71, 817.72, 817.73, 817.74, 817.81, 817.83, 817.84, 817.87, 817.89; R645-100-200, -301-210, -301-211, -301-212, -301-412, -301-512, -301-513, -301-514, -301-521, -301-526, -301-528, -301-535, -301-536, -301-542, -301-553, -301-745, -301-746, -301-747.

Analysis:

Disposal Of Noncoal Mine Wastes

The proposed plans call for the temporary storage of non-coal waste in drilling operations. No other changes are made to the plan with this amendment. The waste is still loaded into a truck and hauled to the waste rock disposal site adjacent to the county access road. The drilling site will be restored to normal surface facilities operations after drilling.

Findings:

The application meets the requirements of the R645 regulations with regard to disposal of non-coal waste.

MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF MINING OPERATIONS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.23; R645-301-512, -301-521, -301-542, -301-632, -301-731, -302-323.

Analysis:

Mining Facilities Maps

The site operations are shown on Figure 6-3.

Findings:

The application meets the requirements of the R645 regulations with regard to maps and cross-sections of mining facilities.

RECLAMATION PLAN

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Regulatory Reference: PL 95-87 Sec. 515 and 516; 30 CFR Sec. 784.13, 784.14, 784.15, 784.16, 784.17, 784.18, 784.19, 784.20, 784.21, 784.22, 784.23, 784.24, 784.25, 784.26; R645-301-231, -301-233, -301-322, -301-323, -301-331, -301-333, -301-341, -301-342, -301-411, -301-412, -301-422, -301-512, -301-513, -301-521, -301-522, -301-525, -301-526, -301-527, -301-528, -301-529, -301-531, -301-533, -301-534, -301-536, -301-537, -301-542, -301-623, -301-624, -301-625, -301-626, -301-631, -301-632, -301-731, -301-723, -301-724, -301-725, -301-726, -301-728, -301-729, -301-731, -301-732, -301-733, -301-746, -301-764, -301-830.

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Analysis:

There is no real change to the reclamation plan as a result of this amendment.

Findings:

The application meets the requirements of the R645 regulations with regard to general reclamation requirements.

BONDING AND INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 800; R645-301-800, et seq.

Analysis:

General

The new construction will not increase the concrete the bond amount. The equipment is owned by the contractor and will be removed upon completion of the project.

Findings:

The application meets the requirements of the R645 regulations with regard to bonding requirements.

RECOMMENDATION:

This application is recommended for approval.