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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Executive Director

Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

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Outgoing
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November 22, 2011

Foster Kirby, Acting Chief Northwest Branch
Office of Surface Mining
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, Colorado 80202-3050

Subject: South Fork Quitchupah Amendment, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC, SUFCO Mine, C/041/002

Dear Mr. Kirby:

On November 4, 2011 the Division received a proposed amendment to the Mining and Reclamation Plan for the SUFCO Mine. Canyon Fuel Company seeks authorization to conduct longwall mining beneath the South Fork of Quitchupah Creek. This stream reach was previously identified as a buffer zone where no mining would occur because there was a lack of information needed to allow the mining. The Company now claims to have adequate monitoring and mitigation methods in place which can allow for the approval of the mining.

Due to the sensitive nature of this area and various resources that could be affected, the Division feels the need to consult with the various other agencies who may have jurisdiction in this area. A copy of the proposed amendment can be found on the Division website at the following location: <https://fs.ogm.utah.gov/GROUPS/MASTER/FILES/COAL/PERMITS/041/C0410002/2011/INCOMING/11042011/> The files can be accessed using this link with both the username & password as ogmguest.

Please review the amendment and submit your comments or concerns to us by no later than December 8th, 2011. The Division then plans to have a conference call on Monday, December 12th, 2011 at 10:00 am to discuss our permitting decision on this amendment. You may participate in the call by dialing 1-877-820-7831 and then the passcode is 278939.

If you have any questions regarding this amendment or the Division's action, please contact me at (801) 538-5325 or April Abate at (801) 538-5214.

Sincerely,

Daron R. Haddock
Coal Program Manager

DRH/sqs
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