

4041/002 Incoming

cc: Joe

Susan W.

Daron

R

File Code: 2720-1

Date: April 22, 2013

Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
John R. Baza
P.O. Box 145801
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5801

RECEIVED

APR 25 2013

DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

Dear Mr. John Baza,

The Fishlake National Forest is beginning the Environmental Assessment (EA) process under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) to disclose the environmental effects of expanding of SUFCO Mine's Special Use Permit to add approximately 102 acres which would provide the space to develop facilities that would allow for coal segregation by quality. The SUFCO mine is located along Quitcupah Road in Sevier County, Utah. The Fishlake National Forest manages the surface estate of the project area lands. NEPA requires that the potential effects of Federal actions be disclosed to the public and that all interested parties be given an opportunity and encouraged to participate in the process. A tentative schedule for this project includes: Public Scoping (May 2013), Notice of Proposed Action (July 2013), and Decision Notice (October 2013).

The Proposed Action is for the Fishlake National Forest to approve the expansion of a Special Use Permit with the addition of approximately 102 acres. This permit expansion would allow for the development of coal load out facilities (crushers, conveyor systems, coal bins, truck scales and an office) and coal storage piles that will increase storage capacity to 100,000 tons and allow for coal segregation by quality and customer needs. Road upgrades will also be completed to facilitate coal loading and transport. Additional infrastructure to support these developments will include power lines, a sanitary waste system, a drinking water system, water lines, culverts, sedimentation ponds and runoff control structures. Drainage will be handled in the same manner the drainage at the current mine facilities is handled.

You have the opportunity to participate in the environmental assessment. We are asking that you submit your comments in writing to assist in issue and alternative development. In addition to this scoping, the public may visit Forest Service officials at the Richfield Ranger District office at any time during the analysis and prior to the decision. The Forest Service is seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, and local agencies and other individuals or organizations that may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. No public meetings are scheduled at this time.

Issues identified in scoping will be used to develop alternatives to the proposed action. Alternatives will be analyzed and a Notice of Proposed Action will be prepared and made available for public review. Following publication of the Notice of Proposed Action, interested parties will have 30 days to review the document and provide written comments. Comments will



be reviewed, a Final EA prepared and a decision made. The Final EA will respond to all comments received on the Notice of Proposed Action.

Comments or questions regarding the proposed action should be submitted by May 28, 2013 to Dave Christensen, Fishlake National Forest, 115 East 900 North, Richfield, UT 84701. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Oral comments must be provided at the Richfield District office during normal business hours via telephone 435-896-1054 or in person. By email to: comments-intermtn-fishlake-richfield@fs.fed.us including your name, address, phone number, and the title of the document on which you are submitting comments. Please include specific facts with supporting rationale that you believe the deciding officer should consider in reaching a decision regarding this proposal. Additional information can be obtained from Dave Christensen by phone 435-896-1054. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including name and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215 and 217.

Sincerely,

/S/ JASON KLING

Jason Kling
District Ranger