



OGMCOAL DNR <ogmcoal@utah.gov>

SUFCO Emergency Subsidence

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To: Christopher Merritt <cmerritt@utah.gov>

Cc: Steve Christensen <stevechristensen@utah.gov>, Duane Matt <dmatt@osmre.gov>, OGMCOAL DNR <ogmcoal@utah.gov>

Chris - as per our conversation, a subsidence hole has opened on lands under the jurisdiction of the USDA Forest Service. Management of this area is being handled by the Fishlake National Forest; the property is under an active coal lease with Bowie Resources for their SUFCO mine operation. The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement has also been notified of the emergency.

At this time, SUFCO is in the process of assessing the situation. As part of their planning, I have recommended they instruct their archaeologist to conduct a literature review of the area of subsidence, their proposed 300-400 foot buffer area for construction and staging, and the approximately 200 foot overland travel route they will need to access the hole from the existing designated Forest Service road. If the results of the review identify any cultural resources, we will address them at that time and seek to design a means of addressing the hole that least impacts any identified resources.

At this time, we simply wish to keep your office informed of our plan of action.

JfM

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