



## United States Department of the Interior

### OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office  
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320  
Denver, CO 80202-3050



January 4, 2018

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Name, Chairperson  
Tribe  
Address  
City, ST, Zip

Dear Chairperson,

The U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), Western Region Office, has prepared a supplemental environmental assessment (EA), to analyze environmental impacts of approving a federal mining plan modification for future underground mining operations into the Greens Hollow Coal Lease Tract UTU-84102 as part of Canyon Fuel Company's Sufco Mine. The OSMRE has prepared the supplemental EA, consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, based on new information provided in the permit application package. The supplemental EA is tiered to the descriptions and environmental analysis contained in the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Leasing and Underground Mining of the Greens Hollow Federal Coal Lease Tract UTU-84102 and is incorporated by reference into this supplemental EA in accordance with 40 CFR 46.135 and available to the public at: [https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/projects/nepa/65045/128886/156785/0529\\_February\\_2015\\_Greens\\_Hollow\\_Final\\_SEIS\\_201502\\_508\\_Compliant\\_UTU-84102.pdf](https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/projects/nepa/65045/128886/156785/0529_February_2015_Greens_Hollow_Final_SEIS_201502_508_Compliant_UTU-84102.pdf).

Sufco Mine is in Sevier County, near Salina, Utah. The Greens Hollow Federal Coal Lease Tract UTU-84102 is in Sanpete and Sevier counties. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) sold the Greens Hollow lease on January 4, 2017 to the highest bidder, which was Canyon Fuel Company. Once a coal mining operator obtains the rights of a federal coal lease, two separate approvals are needed for a coal mine operator to conduct mining operations on federal coal leases: 1) an approved Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) of 1977 permit approved by the regulatory authority, in this case the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOG M), and 2) an approved mining plan, or modification of a previously approved mining plan, by the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management (ASLM). The SMCRA mine permit approval by DOGM provides the basis for the ASLM's decision on the mining plan or mining plan modification. Canyon Fuel Company submitted an amendment to DOGM for approval on April 17, 2017. Subsequently, OSMRE determined that the addition to the Sufco Mine requires a mining plan modification with ASLM approval for mining to occur on that federal coal lease.

OSMRE is responsible for reviewing plans to conduct coal mining and reclamation operations on lands containing leased federal coal. Pursuant to 30 CFR 746, OSMRE must prepare and submit to the ASLM a decision document recommending approval, conditional approval or disapproval of the proposed mining plan modification. Approval of a mining plan modification would authorize underground mining of recoverable coal in the lease of 55.7 million tons. Sufco Mine anticipates production between 5.5 and 6.3 million tons annually. The Greens Hollow lease contains approximately 6,175 acres of federal mineral estate. If the mining plan modification is approved, mining operations would extend approximately 8.7 years.

The purpose of this letter is to formally invite the \_\_\_\_\_ Tribe to consult with the OSMRE on the EA for Canyon Fuel Company's proposed Federal Mining Plan Modification for the Greens Hollow tract, Sufco underground coal mine, pursuant to the US Department of Interior's policy for Government-to-Government consultations [Executive Order 13175, Secretarial Order 3317, and Presidential Memorandum on Tribal Consultation (November 9, 2009)] and 36 CFR Part 800.2(c)(2)(ii), the regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended [NHPA]). The goal of the Government-to-Government process is to create effective collaboration and promote enhanced communication that emphasizes trust, respect, and shared responsibility. OSMRE requests input your tribe may have regarding the Greens Hollow tract, Sufco Mine Federal Mining Plan Modification EA.

If you believe that the proposed action listed above may affect your tribe or resources related to your tribe, including concerns under the NHPA, please submit a written request to [eshaeffe@osmre.gov](mailto:eshaeffe@osmre.gov) or Ms. Elizabeth Shaeffer at 1999 Broadway, Suite 3320, Denver, CO 80202-3050. The \_\_\_\_\_ Tribe may request a Government-to-Government consultation at any time during the NEPA process.

OSMRE is soliciting public comments on the EA and the unsigned Finding of No New Significant Impact (FONNSI). The EA and unsigned FONNSI are available for review as of January 4, 2018. All comments must be received or postmarked by February 5, 2018, to be considered. Documents are available for review online <https://www.wrcc.osmre.gov/initiatives/greensHollowTract.shtm>

Printed versions of the EA and unsigned FONNSI are also available for review at the following locations:

Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation  
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320  
Denver, CO 80202

Between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM Monday through Friday (Closed Saturday and Sunday)

You are invited to direct these comments by mail:

ATTN: OSMRE, Greens Hollow Supplemental EA  
C/O: Gretchen Pinkham  
OSMRE WR  
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320  
Denver, CO 80202

Comments may be emailed to [OSM-nepa-ut@OSMRE.gov](mailto:OSM-nepa-ut@OSMRE.gov), with the subject line: ATTN: OSMRE, Greens Hollow Supplemental EA.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – will be publicly available. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations or businesses and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be available for public review to the extent consistent with applicable law.

Additional information regarding this Project may be obtained from Gretchen Pinkham at (303) 293-5088 or [gpinkham@osmre.gov](mailto:gpinkham@osmre.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Shaeffer" followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Elizabeth Shaeffer, Manager  
Field Operations Branch