

Availability of an Environmental Assessment for Public Review and Comment

Canyon Fuel Company, Skyline Mine Federal Coal Lease Tract UTU-77114

Mining Plan Modification

In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations and the Department of the Interior procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 42 U.S.C. 43332(2) (C), the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), Western Region Office, has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) to analyze environmental impacts of a federal mining plan approval for future underground mining operations into Flat Canyon Federal Coal Lease Tract UTU-77114, held by Canyon Fuel Company as part of the Skyline Mine. Skyline Mine is located in Carbon and Emery counties, approximately five miles southwest of Scofield, Utah, about 18 miles west of Helper, Utah. The Flat Canyon Federal Coal Lease Tract UTU-77114 occurs in Sanpete County, Utah, while private land extending into Emery County, Utah, would be accessed from the Flat Canyon Lease. The EA analyzes both the Flat Canyon Federal Coal Lease Tract and the private land requested to be mined with the Flat Canyon Federal Coal Lease Tract. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued the Flat Canyon Federal Coal Lease Tract UTU-77114 to Canyon Fuel Company on July 1, 2015. The Flat Canyon Federal Coal Lease Tract UTU-77114 is administered by the BLM and by consent, the U.S. Forest Service, Manti-La Sal National Forest. As required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the EA discloses the potential for direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to the environment from the Project. Resources analyzed in the EA include: topography and geology, air quality and climate, social and economic, hydrology, soil, and greater sage-grouse.

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 Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management a decision document recommending approval, conditional approval or disapproval of the proposed mining plan modification. Approval of a mining plan modification would authorize the use of continuous miner and longwall panel extraction methods to produce up to 8 million tons per year of coal from UTU-77114 (a limit established by the air permit Approval Order issued by the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality). The Flat Canyon Federal Coal Lease Tract UTU-77114 has approximately 2,692 acres of federal mineral estate and contains a probable maximum of about 42 million tons of recoverable coal. Additionally, the Flat Canyon Federal Coal Lease Tract UTU-77114 provides access to 1,100 acres of private coal reserves (approximately 5 million tons) immediately east of Flat Canyon Federal Coal Lease Tract UTU-77114. If the mining plan modification is approved, mining operations at Skyline Mine would extend approximately 9 to 12 years, assuming an average production rate of 4.3 million tons annually.

OSMRE is soliciting public comments on the EA and the unsigned Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The EA and unsigned FONSI are available for review as of June 16, 2016. All comments must be received or postmarked by July 18, 2016, to be considered.

The EA and unsigned FONSI are available for review online at:
<http://www.wrcc.osmre.gov/initiatives/skylineMine.shtm>.

Printed versions of the EA and unsigned FONSI 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 to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday (Closed Saturday and Sunday)

Manti-La Sal National Forest Supervisor's Office
599 West Price River Road
Price, UT 84501

Between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM Monday through Friday (Closed Saturday and Sunday)

Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
Public Information Center 1594 W. North Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84116

Between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM Monday through Friday (Closed Saturday and Sunday)

Bureau of Land Management
Utah State Office
440 West 200 South, Suite 500
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

Between the hours of 7:45 AM and 4:30 PM Monday through Friday (Closed Saturday and Sunday).

Price Library
159 East Main St
Price, UT 84501

Between the hours of 8:00 AM and 7:00 PM Monday through Friday and Saturday 9:00 AM to Noon
(Closed Sunday)

You are invited to direct comments by mail: ATTN: OSMRE, Skyline Mine EA, C/O: Nicole Caveny, OSMRE WR, 1999 Broadway, Suite 3320, Denver, CO 80202. Comments can also be emailed to osm-nepa-ut@osmre.gov with the subject line: ATTN: OSMRE, Skyline Mine 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 Nicole Caveny at (303) 293-5078 or ncaveny@osmre.gov.