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File



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June 25, 1980

Mr. Trevor G. Whiteside  
Senior Mine Engineer  
Valley Camp of Utah, Inc.  
Scofield Route  
Helper, Utah 84526

RE: Fish and Wildlife Consultation  
Pursuant to UMC 783.20  
Belina #1 & #2 and Utah #2  
Mines ACT/007/001 and  
ACT/007/014

Dear Mr. Whiteside,

Enclosed are the guidelines which were compiled by the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining as a result of the consultation with the agencies having jurisdiction over fish and wildlife and habitats in the mine plan area. Please be reminded of the requirements of the UMC 771.23(c) when writing your permit application.

The consultation process has established that there is a need to designate an adjacent area at the Belina and Utah mines due to effects likely to occur to fish and wildlife resources (UMC 783.20). Accordingly, Valley Camp shall provide a plan for minimizing impacts and disturbances to fish and wildlife, utilizing impact control measures, management techniques and monitoring methods for the protection of riparian areas (UMC 784.21). The operator is also obligated to locate and operate haul and access roads so as to avoid or minimize impacts to important fish and wildlife (UMC 817.97 (d)(1)). The Division therefore designates the geographic area, from South Fork in Eccles Canyon up to the ridgeline on each side of the canyon and then downstream to the confluence of Mud and Eccles Creek and from that point downstream along Mud Creek for a width of 500 feet to the lowest water monitoring station (VC-1), as an adjacent area for purposes of fish and wildlife and habitat protection, (a map is enclosed of this area).

June 25, 1980

Page Two

Valley Camp therefore must address, in the Fish and Wildlife Plan section of the permit application, plans to rectify any existing problems involving coal and earth being dozed into Eccles Creek and overloaded coal being lost into the road along Eccles and Mud Creek. Mitigating measures must address means to prevent overloading of haul trucks, stabilization of steep walls and the design of a year-round road maintenance program to eliminate a continual transfer of sediment materials into the creek bed.

Guidelines for monitoring the effectiveness of this fish and wildlife plan, as outlined above, are set forth in the attached guidelines document for the Valley Camp Mines. Also enclosed for your use in preparation of the Fish and Wildlife plan for UMC 784.21 and for compliance with performance standard UMC 816.97(c) are the guidelines for the design and construction of electric power lines.

Please be advised that the Division will not hesitate to take enforcement action on these matters.

The Forest Service has recommended that Valley Camp may find the E.I.S. by James J. Travis dated 5-26-76, to be useful in that it contains a discussion of impacts to fish and wildlife as a result of mining.

Should any questions arise concerning these matters please call me.

Sincerely,



MARY ANN WRIGHT  
RECLAMATION BIOLOGIST

MAW/lml

Enclosure: Wildlife and Vegetation Guidelines and Map

CC: U.S. Forest Service, Price - w/enc.  
Division of Wildlife Resources - w/enc.  
Fish and Wildlife Service - w/enc.  
Mr. Bill Haynes - Valley Camp - w/enc.  
OSM, Denver

Belina #1 & #2 and Utah #2 Mines  
ACT/007/001 and ACT/007/014  
Valley Camp of Utah Inc.

Guidelines for Fish and Wildlife and Habitat  
Information Pursuant to UMC 783.20

Aquatic Studies

1. Stream Macroinvertebrate, Fish and Habitat Study

Area: Eccles Creek From South Fork downstream to the confluence with Mud Creek and Mud Creek from the confluence with Eccles Creek downstream to the lowest Valley Camp Monitoring station (VC-1).

Time: Assemble all prior data on this area collected by public and private studies and utilize this information as a data base.

Purpose: Document and describe the condition of the creeks up to the time of permit application. Provide data on the macroinvertebrate and fish populations, noting species composition, diversity, size and age of fish, and other pertinent data. Describe the habitat quality in terms of temperature, gradient, water quantity, water quality (parameters measured under the present water monitoring program are acceptable), and stream bottom composition. Describe any past perturbations such as culverting, land slides, etc. and note the dates of these occurrences.

Submit to the Division biologist the results of monthly water quality analysis, adding an additional station at the location of Coastal States Energy Company's water monitoring station CS-6. If measures described in the Valley Camp Fish and Wildlife Plan are found to be inadequate or are not being executed properly, then the Division may require Valley Camp to provide further monitoring data which would more fully demonstrate impacts to the streams by mining activities. Additionally, the Division may issue violations for impacts to riparian areas.

Terrestrial Studies

1. Raptor Survey

Area: Any areas of proposed new disturbance plus a zone of 1 km radius surrounding these sites. The route of the conveyor belt must be surveyed in areas where it will pass through presently undisturbed areas. For any undisturbed areas for new roads or portals, surveys will have to be conducted.

Time: March through June, the breeding season.

Purpose: Assess occurrence and location of any raptor breeding sites. Map all sightings and nests in the pertinent area.

## 2. Migratory Birds of High Federal Interest Survey

Area: Any areas of proposed new disturbance plus a zone of 1 km. radius surrounding these sites. The route of the conveyor belt must be surveyed in areas where it will pass through presently undisturbed areas. For any undisturbed areas for new roads or portals, surveys will have to be conducted.

Time: N.A. or Spring

Purpose: To assess the presence and degree of use by these species. There are studies which are ongoing or have been completed by the UDWR office in Price. Provide data as to the occurrence, abundance and habitat, in the area described above, for the Pileated Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker, Lewis' woodpecker, Western Bluebird, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Cooper's Hawk, and Osprey.

## 3. Upland Game Bird Survey

Area: Any areas of proposed new disturbance plus a zone of 1 km. radius surrounding these sites. The route of the conveyor belt must be surveyed in areas where it will pass through presently undisturbed areas. For any undisturbed areas for new roads or portals, surveys will have to be conducted.

Time: N.A.

Purpose: To assess the presence and degree of the use by these birds in any areas to be disturbed. There are studies which are ongoing or have been completed by the UDWR office in Price. Provide data as to the occurrence, abundance and existence of special habitats in these areas for upland game birds.

## 4. Federally Listed Threatened or Endangered Species Survey

Area: The mine plan area

Time: N.A.

Purpose: To assess the occurrence of the Bald Eagle and the Peregrine Falcon on the mine plan area. Provide a positive or negative determination as to the occurrence of these species on the mine plan area. Some information from the UDWR office in Price should be available for these species.

5. Survey of All Other Vertebrates - Amphibians, Reptiles, Birds and Mammals

Area: The mine plan area

Time: N.A.

Purpose: To provide data on the presence, status, relative abundance, population trend, preferred habitat type for all species inhabiting the mine plan area. Present the habitat preference information to correlate with data collection from habitat (Vegetation) studies. A great deal of data has been collected by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Office in Price. Access to the UDWR data files in Price should be requested formally of Mr. Larry Wilson, Supervisor of the Southeastern Region.

Habitat Studies

Area: The company should assess wildlife habitat on the mine plan area with more detail for areas to be disturbed as set forth in the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining Vegetation Guidelines of June 6, 1980

Time: This study should assess year-round habitats for wildlife. Vegetation studies should be conducted in the summer.

Purpose: The company is required to assess the condition, trend and types of habitat within the mine plan area. In the course of other field studies, areas of special use for wildlife, such as heavily used riparian areas, large mammal dens and snake dens, should be noted and mapped.

June 25, 1980

