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United States Department of the Interior  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

UTAH FIELD OFFICE  
LINCOLN PLAZA  
145 EAST 1300 SOUTH, SUITE 404  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84115

cc: Daron  
Paul  
Greg

RECEIVED

APR 19 2001

DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS AND MINING

In Reply Refer To

(CO/KS/NE/UT)

April 16, 2001

Mr. Daren Rasmussen, Stream Alteration Specialist  
Utah Division of Water Rights  
1594 West North Temple, Suite 220  
Box 146300  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-6300

INCOMING  
C/007/001  
SPDIA

RE: Stream Channel Alteration Application No. 00-91-24SA, Lodestar Energy, Inc., Whiskey Creek, Carbon County

Dear Mr. Rasmussen:

This is in reference to our February 6, 2001 meeting regarding the referenced Stream Channel Alteration Application. In our meeting, we discussed the proposed surface coal mine under a portion of Whiskey Creek with the Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR), Division of Water Rights, Division of Water Quality, Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining (UDOGM), and the Bureau of Land Management. The project as proposed would require the temporary movement of a section of the stream to allow mining operations under the streambed. As a result of this meeting, a site restoration plan has been prepared for the mining project. We are providing the following comments on this plan for your consideration.

1. The current proposed plans for channel sinuosity are insufficient. Additional meanders should be planned to insure the physical stability of the stream channels. In the restored streams, meanders should be reconstructed to the specifications of where they originally occurred. Meanders in the new stream should closely approximate the natural conditions of adjacent stream channels.
2. Drop structures should be no more than 9" in height to reduce the downstream erosion potential, as well as not preclude potential use of the stream by fish.
3. We recommend use of native grass species in the revegetation plan, rather than Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*). Possible suitable native species include: mountain brome (*Bromus marginatus*), big bluegrass (*Poa ampla*), and slender wheatgrass (*Agropyron trachycaulum*). Final determination of suitable species should be based in part on a site visit to investigate existing local vegetation.

This response has been prepared under the authority of and in accordance with the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and represents Department of Interior comments on this application.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this application. If you have any questions or need further information please contact Jessica Gourley or Diana Whittington at (801) 524-5009 at ext. 133 or ext. 128 respectively.

Sincerely,



Henry R. Maddux  
Utah Field Supervisor

cc: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Attention 8EPR-EP, One Denver Place, Suite 500, 999 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Denver, Colorado 80202-2405

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1403 South 600 West, Suite A, Bountiful, Utah 84010

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Box 146301, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-6301

Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, Box 145801, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

David Miller, Lodestar Energy, HC 35 Box 370, Helper, Utah, 84526