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DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES  
DOUGLAS F. DAY  
Director

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

1596 West North Temple/Salt Lake City, Utah 84116/801-533-9333

October 15, 1980

Reply To

SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE



195 West Railroad Avenue, Box 840, Price, Utah 84501  
(801) 637-3310

Kenneth B. Hutchinson  
Price River Coal Company  
76 South Main  
P.O. Box 629  
Helper, Utah 84526

DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING

Dear Mr. Hutchinson:

The Division has reviewed the report from a raptor study that was prepared by Janet Young concerning development activities planned for the Crandal Canyon area. Since non-raptorial birds are also discussed it seems that the report was intended to satisfy inventory needs for all species of migratory birds having high federal interest--43 CFR 3461.1 (N-1). The Division has several questions and recommendations concerning the report.

The report indicates that surveys were conducted only in association with the shaft site and corridor for a power line. The surveys should have also considered surface disturbance that will be needed to adequately develop the access road. Since a poor quality access road already exist to the area, a survey need only address the presence or non-presence of raptor nests and other "high priority" habitats for high interest avian species in locations that would physically be impacted by road development. There is no need for such a survey associated with the road to extend out beyond just the zone that will be physically impacted.

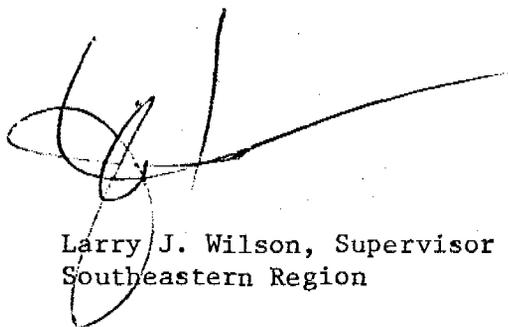
Although the report indicates that no raptor nests were located, it should be made clear whether or not this observation includes active nests as well as inactive nests. In addition the report should identify the extent to which "high priority" habitat for bird species having high federal interest exists proximal (within a one kilometer radius) to each planned surface disturbance area (shaft site, power line corridor and access road).

Raptor surveys should be conducted throughout the period of time (March through June) in which the birds are actively nesting. Such an effort would require at least four separate field inspections (late March, mid April, mid May and early June), since each species has a specific period during which they nest. Normally active nests are most easily located when the adults are feeding their young. Surveys for other "high priority" habitats can be conducted whenever weather conditions are suitable.

Once a raptor nest or other "high priority" habitat for species of migratory Avifauna has been determined to exist within a one kilometer radius of planned surface disturbed areas the wildlife plan of the mining permit application must address those habitats.

Thank you for the Price River Coal Company's interest and concern for management of the local Wildlife Resource.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "LJW", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Larry J. Wilson, Supervisor  
Southeastern Region

LJW:LBD:gp

cc: Darrell Nish  
✓Mary Ann Wright  
Clark Johnson