Office of the Governor
PUBLIC LANDS POLICY COORDINATING

KATHLEEN CLARKE
*Director*

State of Utah

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*Lieutenant
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October 16, 2015

*Sent via electronic mail*: lreinhart@utah.gov

Lisa Reinhart
Reclamation Engineer
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
1594 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84116

Subject:    Swens Canyon Ventilation Facility Project, Skyline Mine

Dear Ms. Reinhart:

The State of Utah supports Swens Canyon Ventilation Facility Project. With regard to the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining's request for sage-grouse impact information, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) has reviewed the Ventilation Facility proposal, and provides the following comments.

The project occurs within the Carbon Sage-Grouse Management Area; however the area is defined as non-habitat. In the *Conservation Plan for Greater Sage Grouse in Utah (Plan)*, Section 3.6.2, non-habitat is described as "lands that do not contribute to the annual life-cycle of sage-grouse." UDWR has conducted an on-site review, and has determined that this area is in fact non-habitat. The sagebrush occurring on site is on steep slopes confined to a fairly narrow canyon. Additionally, Section 6.5.2 of the Plan states that "no specific management provisions are proposed for non-habitat areas within SGMA's, except to consider noise and permanent structure stipulations around a lek, and to note that, birds may fly over the non-habitat as they connect to other populations or seasonal habitat areas." The nearest known lek is over 11 air miles from the project area, and as such, any noise related activities should not affect lekking grouse.

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Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed action and provide comment. Please direct any other written questions regarding this correspondence to the Public Lands Policy Coordination Office at the address below, or call to discuss any questions or concerns.


Sincerely,

Kathleen Clarke
Director