

To Jim then Coal file
ACT/007/006



United States Department of the Interior

Jim

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
AREA OFFICE COLORADO-UTAH
1311 FEDERAL BUILDING
125 SOUTH STATE STREET
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84138

IN REPLY REFER TO:

December 11, 1980

Mr. Cleon J. Feight, Director
Division of Oil, Gas and Mines
1588 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Attention: Mary Ann Wright

Dear Mr. Feight:

This letter is a followup to our November 8, 1980 correspondence regarding Plateau Mining Company's request for information concerning their proposed airshaft breakout in the Sealy Canyon area.

Subsequent to that correspondence we have, in company with Mr. Grimes of Plateau Mining Company, examined the proposed breakout area to determine possible impacts on migratory raptor species. It is our opinion, that at this time there would be no impacts by the proposed action upon golden or bald eagles. Also, it would not be possible to determine at this time of year whether there is use of the proposed breakout area by any other species of raptorial types of birds for nesting. Therefore, we recommend that the Company take the following action:

1. The impending breakout be completed prior to the time of the year in which raptor nesting may occur in the area.
2. As part of the baseline biological survey, appropriate raptor investigations be conducted during the breeding seasons in the area of the breakout to determine if this particular habitat area is being utilized by any raptor species for nesting.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this advice to you. If we can be of further assistance in regard to this matter, feel free to contact us.

Sincerely yours

Robert H. Shields
Area Manager

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OIL, GAS & MINING