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July 10, 1981

Mr. Ben Grimes
Plateau Mining Company
P. O. Drawer PMC
Price, Utah 84501

RE: Overland Conveyor Plan
Starpoint Mines
Plateau Mining Company
ACT/007/006
Carbon County, Utah

Dear Mr. Grimes:

In reviewing your overland conveyor plan dated May 19, 1981, some questions were raised as to how the three areas chosen for deer crossings were selected.

On page 2 of the document, it is stated that "deer movement is associated with traditional trails." In the same report, a letter from John Livesay of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) states that "there are three major areas where the terrain and vegetation are such that a deer would be expected to attempt a crossing." It is not clear from the rest of the text if these two statements were taken into account when the decision of where to put the crossings was made.

It can be seen in Table 1 of the report, if the 13 deer which the UDWR personnel herded under the conveyor at Segment 9 are omitted, that almost 40 percent of the crossings were in Segments 2 and 3, so it is important to have a crossing in this area. The rest of the observed crossings were divided fairly evenly between the remaining segments, so it is not clear from the crossing data which areas the deer prefer.

The Division is anxious to see the deer crossing enhancement work begin, but we are concerned that the enhanced crossing be in areas of known deer use, preferably in traditional trail areas where terrain and vegetation are conducive to deer crossing. Could you please clarify for us if your decision on the placement of deer crossings was made on the basis of existing deer trails and topography or strictly on the basis of the UDWR crossing study.

Mr. Ben Grimes
ACT/007/006
July 10, 1981
Page 2

I would also appreciate it if you would send a species list of shrubs and trees that will be planted on the south side of the conveyor to enhance deer crossing and the densities at which the various species will be planted.

. Thank you for your cooperation on this matter. Please call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Susan C. Linner
SUSAN C. LINNER
RECLAMATION BIOLOGIST

cc: OSM

SCL/btm