

PRO/007/009

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United States Department of the Interior

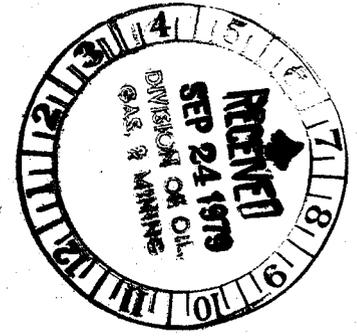
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING

Reclamation and Enforcement

POST OFFICE BLDG. RM. 270

1823 STOUT STREET

DENVER, COLORADO 80202



SEP 20 1979

Ms. Mary Ann Wright
Reclamation Biologist
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
1588 W. North Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84116

Dear Mary Ann:

John Hardaway has asked me to respond to your letter of September 7 concerning Eureka Energy Company's request for guidance on baseline fish and wildlife resources information to be required for their Sage Point-Dugout Canyon underground coal mine. For general guidance on baseline data gathering, I would recommend the FWS Publication, "A Systems Approach to Ecological Baseline Data Gathering".

For a more specific response, I have talked with Clark Johnson, FWS Coal Coordinator in Utah about this request, and he plans to visit the site and will respond to you directly. In addition, I would offer the following items:

1. Deer density in the area should be measured and monitored to learn if they have any special patterns of movement or preferred gathering places on the proposed permit and adjacent areas.

2. The conveyor should be constructed at a sufficient height to provide minimal impediment to animal movement.

3. I assume that the applicant has provided information elsewhere on the means by which quality of water draining off the facilities area will be protected. However, since such information has not been submitted with the package, I want to mention that a system of berms and sedimentation pond(s) around the facility will be required prior to discharge of such water to streams.

4. The following baseline data is required for Soldier Creek:

a. There should be three water quality monitoring stations: one above, one within, and one below the permit area. Water quantity and quality should be measured at least once during each of the four seasons. What

SEP 20 1979

Ms. Mary Ann Wright

-2-

physical and chemical parameters is the applicant planning to measure? All aquatic biota listed below should be sampled at the location of these same stations.

b. Benthic organisms to be sampled at least once during each of the four seasons. Describe the substrate as to composition and particle size.

c. Periphyton to be sampled once during each of three seasons -- spring, summer and fall.

d. Fish to be sampled in spring (before run-off) and in August.

e. Standard sampling procedures are to be used for all the above.

5. The following pertains to Fish Creek.

a. Identify physical characteristics -- stream flow, intermittent or ephemeral.

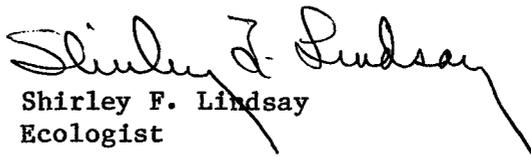
b. If intermittent, a biological sampling program similar to that outlined for Soldier Creek must be developed.

6. Applicant should keep in mind that water quality and quantity baseline data collection should also provide information bearing on irrigated lands south of the mine and in the vicinity of Soldier Creek.

7. Wildlife baseline data collection should specifically address the possibility of endangered species and migratory birds, including golden eagles.

I hope these ideas will assist in identifying areas of special interest.

Sincerely,


Shirley F. Lindsay
Ecologist

cc: Clark Johnson,
FWS Coal Coordinator, Utah

PRD/007/009



United States Department of the Interior

IN REPLY REFER TO

3500
(U-601)

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Moab District
Price River Resource Area
P. O. Drawer AB
Price, Utah 84501

September 18, 1979

Mr. Cleon B. Feight, Director
Attn: Mary Ann Wright
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
1588 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Dear Mr. Feight:

Recently you requested fish and wildlife information and/or studies, which Eureka Energy Company could conduct in order to comply with the permanent program's proposed regulation MC 783.20 for the proposed Sage Point-Dugout Coal Mine.

We have been in contact with Mr. Larry Dalton of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) in regard to your request. Mr. Dalton informed us that he is in the process of writing a research proposal for Eureka. His report will contain all the necessary information needed to comply with regulation MC 783.20.

As you know, DWR is the primary State agency invoked for wildlife matters. We work closely with DWR and place high reliance on their expertise in this field.

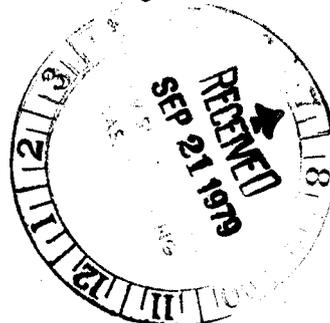
Mr. Dalton will be sending us a copy of the material he is submitting to Eureka. If we find any problem with this information we will notify you. If you do not hear from us, Mr. Dalton's material will serve as our written guidance. ✓

Sincerely yours,

Lee E. Bugger

Area Manager

cc:
Mr. Larry Wilson
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
455 W. Railroad Ave.
Price, Utah 84501



Save Energy and You Serve America!