0050 state of utah

~~to Mary Ann Wright~~

Coal file ACT/007/009

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

DOUGLAS F. DAY
Director

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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

June 9, 1981

Reply To SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE
455 West Railroad Avenue, Box 840, Price, Utah 84501
(801) 637-3310

EUREKA ENERGY COMPANY
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Mr. Nick Temnikov
Eureka Energy Company
215 Market Street
Room 263
San Francisco, California 94106

Dear Nick:

Due to recent observations and measurements made by Larry Dalton and Charles Greenwood, the Division has adjusted its recommendations concerning passage structures for big game along overland conveyor systems. The current recommendations are as follows.

In instances where conveyors, slurry lines or any other structure having potential to be a barrier to big game movement are to be developed, passage structures must be provided. Generally speaking, a mix of overpass and underpass type structures are recommended in order to allow passage of big game to habitats either side of any barrier. These crossings should be placed at the points to be identified from intensive study of big game movements in relation to the mine plan area. Such study would not be required if the structure was adequately elevated to allow uninhibited passage of big game along its entire length.

Underpasses for all big game ungulates other than elk or moose should have a minimum clearance of one meter maintained across a span of at least five meters. Underpasses for elk or moose should have a minimum clearance of three meters maintained across a span of at least five meters.

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Overpasses should be designed as a circular earthen ramp with the barrier structure bisecting the ramp into two equal halves as follows:

> On either side of the conveyor a half-round ramp with a slope no greater than 3:1 on a five meter wide path placed at an angle 90 degrees to the conveyor and tapering around to a slope of 5:1 at paths adjacent and parallel to the conveyor. The platform over the conveyor should be concrete or some other material that would not echo when being crossed by big game and should be of character similar to rock or natural earth.

Soils associated with either crossing style should be of the A or B horizons to allow for development of vegetation. Vegetative cover must be established in association with all crossing sites. This will lessen anxiety of individual animals using the site through development of a natural appearing environment.

Mature trees and an abundance of browse plants need to be placed proximal to crossing points in order to provide a safe travelway for big game ungulates. The browse plants will also serve as a permanent attraction for big game to crossing points. Additionally, a mixture of grass and forb seeds should be broadcast over each crossing point to stabilize the soil and enhance the forage situation.

Appropriately sized boulders may need to be placed at crossing sites in order to control off-road vehicles utilized in outdoor recreation.

Thank you for an opportunity to assist Eureka Energy Company in protecting Utah's wildlife resource.

Sincerely,

John Livesay, Supervisor
Southeastern Region

JL:[illegible]gp

cc: Darrell Nish