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EUREKA ENERGY COMPANY

A SUBSIDIARY OF PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

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April 28, 1981

Ms. Mary Ann Wright
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
1588 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

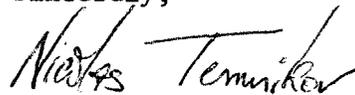
Re: Sage Point-Dugout Canyon
Project/Golden Eagle Nests

Dear Mary Ann:

Please be advised that as of April 3, 1981 three active and two alternate golden eagle aeries have been observed by UDWR personnel. Locations of these nests are indicated on the enclosed maps. I have also enclosed for your information a section from UDWR's progress report for March 1981. No active golden eagle nests were observed in the permit area last year.

Please call me if you should have any comments or recommendations.

Sincerely,



NICOLAS K. TEMNIKOV
Regulatory Coordinator

NKT:dmh

Enclosures

cc: Steven Viert (ERT)



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"STUDY TO DETERMINE THE EFFECTS OF COAL
DEVELOPMENT ON WILDLIFE IN SOUTHEASTERN UTAH"

Monthly Report for March 1981

During the month of March, all experimental and control transects were monitored for big game tracks and Emlen transects. Additionally, the over-land coal conveyor belt was monitored once during each week, for a total of five readings. Raptor surveys were also conducted, and to date have revealed three active golden eagle aeries, and two alternate golden eagle aeries.

* Breeding owl call inventories have revealed both the great horned owl and pygmy owl using the project area.

Locations of the active and alternate golden eagle aeries are plotted on the attached maps. Aerie locations are as follows:

1. NW 1/4 Sec. 26 T. 13 S., R. 12 E., Carbon County, Utah (this aerie was an alternate nest during 1980, but is active now, 1981)
2. SW 1/4 Sec. 16 T. 13 S., R. 12 E., Carbon County, Utah (this aerie is active now, 1981)
3. SE 1/4 Sec. 21 T. 13 S., R. 12 E., Carbon County, Utah (these two aeries are alternates this year, 1981)
4. SW 1/4 Sec. 18 T. 13 S., R. 12 E., Carbon County, Utah (this nest is active now, 1981 and shows evidence of having greenery taken to the nest in past years)

Because the golden eagle is of high federal interest pursuant to 43 CFR, 3461.1 (n-1) and are of high interest to the State of Utah, because they are extremely sensitive to disturbance, these active aerie sites need protection from significant or continual disturbance within one-half kilometer radius of the nest. This buffer zone is ranked as being of critical value to maintenance of the eagle population when the bird is actually utilizing the aerie; that period of time is normally between April 15 and June 15, but these aeries are presently active. The buffer zone would need to be increased to one kilometer if a disturbance were to originate from above and within direct line of sight to the eagle aerie.

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This critical valued zone is of specific importance to aerie #2 due to the proximity of an existing exploration road and the proposed Fishcreek Mine Portal #1. The exploration road is located within 40 meters of the nest; thus indicating the importance of protecting this aerie from any disturbance until mid-June.

During the month of April all experimental and control transects will be monitored for big game tracks medium sized mammals and Emlen transects. The overland coal conveyor belt will be monitored for deer tracks and raptor surveys will continue.

An index of mule deer activity documented during March, in relation to the proposed overland coal conveyor belt has been summed in Table 1.

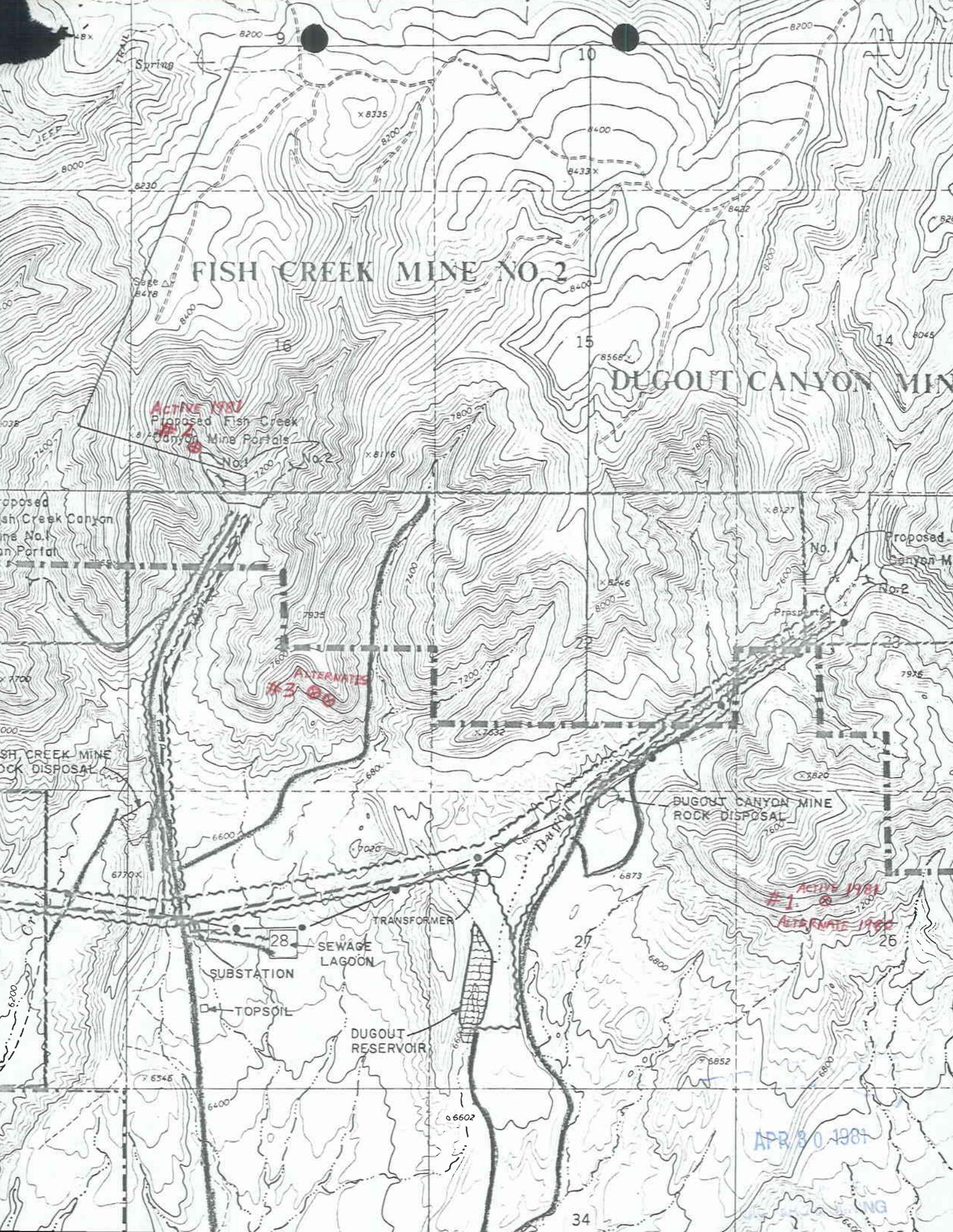
Raw data forms and field notes for the month of February have been enclosed for Eureka Energy Company.

One aerial survey was conducted during March. A copy of the survey report is enclosed. (It is important to note that when this aerial survey was conducted, deer use proximal to the proposed overland coal conveyor was light. But since that flight deer activity on the project area has greatly increased. An on-the-ground deer count conducted on March 25, documented 252 deer along Soldier Creek and the Mahlares fields.) Future aerial surveys will not be conducted due to warm ground conditions preventing snow accumulation.

* | It is also important to point out that in the monthly report for February, the index of deer activity data (Table 1) for February and the total are turned around. The February row is supposed to be the total row and visa-versa.

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FISH CREEK MINE NO. 2

DUGOUT CANYON MINE

ACTIVE 1981
Proposed Fish Creek
Canyon Mine Portals

ALTERNATE 1980
#3

ACTIVE 1981
#1
ALTERNATE 1980

DUGOUT CANYON MINE
ROCK DISPOSAL

TRANSFORMER
SEWAGE LAGOON
SUBSTATION
TOPSOIL
DUGOUT RESERVOIR

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SOLDIER CREEK MINE

Existing Soldier Creek Mine Portal

#4
Active 1981

Proposed Fish Creek Mine Fan Plant

FISH ROCK

OFFICES AND SHOPS

PREPARATION PLANT

CENTRAL FACILITIES

WATER TOWER

ANDERSON RESERVOIR

MAR 30 1981

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