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File
ACT/007/011

United States Department of the Interior

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

May 19, 1980

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

Attention: Mary Ann Wright

RE: U.S. Fuel Company
Hiawatha Complex
ACT/007/011

Dear Mr. Feight:

These comments are provided in response to the Pre-design Consultation requested by the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining for the subject permit area. We understand that the Company proposes to apply for a permit covering the entire complex. Therefore, some of the activities to be evaluated are complete and in operation, some additional development is contemplated for the existing operations, there is an anticipated reopening of an old operation, and an initiation of a new operation removed some distance from the home complex.

These new developmental proposals consist of a new ventilation blower and access in North Fork of Miller Creek, a coal conveyor system down Middle Fork of Miller Creek from King Mine #4 to the processing plant, a reactivation of an old King Mine operation including a conveyor part way down South Fork of Miller Creek and finally, the new mining operation at an old Morland Mine operation in Cedar Creek.

We believe that the proposed additional development in the North and Middle Fork of Miller Creek would require an intensive evaluation to determine the presence of high value habitat for raptor species and other migratory birds of high federal interest. The same type of activity needs to be conducted on those facilities proposed for the South Fork of Miller Creek. In addition, some detailed large game animal data needs to be acquired as it relates to the proposed conveyor system. These same data needs would exist for the proposed development of the old Morland Mine in Cedar Creek Canyon.

This permit area is within the range of the endangered species bald eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* and the American peregrine falcon, *Falco peregrinus anatum.* The Company should initiate studies to determine the presence and the degree of use by these species of the permit area.

Raptor
conveyor
study
TAE

Finally, we recommend that the Company develop a detailed vegetational map for the entire permit area.

This completes our comments in regard to the Pre-design Consultation. If we can be of any further assistance, please request the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert H. Shields".

Robert H. Shields
Area Manager