

state of utah

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DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

DOUGLAS F. DAY  
Director

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

JIM

AUG 19 1981

File ACT/007/012  
Copy to Wayne  
Mary Ann  
Lynn

August 18, 1981

RECEIVED  
AUG 19 1981

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

DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING

Dear Jack:

The Division has completed a review of the Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP) submitted by U. S. Steel Corporation for the Wellington Coal Cleaning Plant. As you know, the Division has provided the applicant with significant input concerning wildlife, impacts and recommendations for a mitigation plan. The MRP fails to adequately present that or similar information. Our specific comments are enclosed.

Thank you for an opportunity to review the MRP and provide comment.

Sincerely,

Douglas F. Day  
Director

Enclosure

UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES' REVIEW COMMENTS ON THE MINING AND RECLAMATION PLAN (MRP) SUBMITTED BY UNITED STATES STEEL CORPORATION FOR THE WELLINGTON COAL CLEANING PLANT

Page 783-18 - The fish and wildlife resource information, although on file with the Company, should be a part of the MRP so that the document can be adequately reviewed by all agencies.

Page 783-27, (a)(2)(ii) - The MRP fails to identify that a major land use of the area was and is wildlife habitat. Due to the arid nature of the area and soil types, biological productivity of the desert scrub habitat is typically low. Similar statements can be made concerning the agricultural areas based upon soil type; however, biological production of these areas can be enhanced through standard agrarian practices. Both of these habitat types are ranked as being of substantial value to local wildlife populations.

The riparian-wetland habitats associated with the plant are productive sites. They have been ranked as being of critical value to local wildlife population.

The U.S. Soil Conservation Service's rating of the area as "very poor" wildlife habitat probably reflects an economic assessment rather than an assessment of the relative biological worth of the habitats to wildlife. This section of the MRP needs to be clarified.

Page 783-32 - Some of the lands held in ownership by U.S. Steel Corporation that adjoin the coal preparation plant are pastures and cropland that have been irrigated in past years.

Page 784-3, (b)(4) and 784-10 (b) - The MRP does not identify any plans to cover the waste disposal areas with earthen material that will allow revegetation once abandoned. This final step in reclamation should be expected.

Page 784-29 - The Fish and Wildlife Plan, although on file with the Company, should be a part of the MRP so that the document can be adequately reviewed by all agencies.