

0005

Site ACT/007/012
Copy for Wayne
Gil
Susan

June 26, 1981

RECEIVED
JUN 28 1981

MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional Director, Office of Surface Mining
Denver, Colorado
Attention: Shirley Lindsay

FROM: Acting Area Manager, Fish and Wildlife Service
Salt Lake City, Utah

SUBJECT: Operation and Reclamation Plan, Wellington Coal Cleaning Plant,
U.S. Steel Corp.

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

A review of the Operation and Reclamation Plan was made for completeness. At this time, the Company has not responded to our original request resulting from the Pre-design Consultation. Primarily these were (1) adequate treatment of threatened and endangered animals and (2) enhancement opportunities for waterfowl.

There is the possibility that black-footed ferrets could be encountered should prairie dog colonies exist on the site. Apparently inventories for prairie dog colonies have not been completed. A negative or positive determination as to the occurrence of endangered or threatened species is needed in the plan. The review of threatened and endangered plant species was satisfactory.

Opportunities exist for enhancement of waterfowl habitat with only limited dollar expenditures or modification of existing operations. Nesting structures for geese and ducks on or adjacent to the settling ponds would increase nesting success. Portions of the crop (corn) from the fields located near the river could be left unharvested as a food source for birds during the spring and fall migration. Production of winter wheat would be a good food source for some species also. The Fish and Wildlife Service would be willing to provide specific advice on this proposal.

Please contact us if we can be of further assistance.

cc: DWR, SLC
DWR, Price
VGM, SLC

William R. Ehlert