



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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

(ES)

April 8, 1982

RECEIVED
 APR 12 1982

DIVISION OF
 OIL, GAS & MINING
 JIM

APR 23 1982

Cleon Feight, Director
 Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
 4241 State Office Building
 Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Dear Mr. Feight:

On March 24, 1982, Ron Joseph of my staff examined the various powerlines of two coal companies on a recent trip to Price, Utah. The purpose of this letter is to apprise you of his findings.

Mr. Joseph met with Mr. William Kurkwood of U.S. Steel and examined the 2 phase and 3 phase company lines at their Wellington Coal Preparation Plant. Although these lines do not conform to raptor protection specifications, we do not recommend correcting the lines because they are not being used by raptors. The lack of raptor use of the crossarms is due, in part, to the close proximity to the preparation plant and the poor habitat conditions near the site.

In the afternoon, Mr. Joseph met with Dean Bray of Consolidated Coal Company and was escorted to the field to examine the 3 phase powerline at the Emery Deep Mine site. This short east-west powerline traverses shadscale habitat which is not used extensively by eagles. No eagle carcasses, bone piles, excrement, or other use was noted. Consequently, we do not recommend any modification of the Emery Deep Mine site powerline.

For your information, Mr. Joseph examined, by helicopter, the potentially hazardous powerline in Clark Valley which was reported in our October 9, 1981 letter to you. The Clark Valley line is maintained and operated by Utah Power and Light (UP&L) and this line supplies power to Kaiser Steel Company's Sunnyside Coal Mine. However, the problem sections identified traverses BLM land and is not within any coal company permit boundaries. The UP&L line to Kaiser's Sunnyside mine was examined and no eagle carcasses were discovered primarily because the line crosses pinyon-juniper land; habitat not extensively used by eagles. However, six eagle carcasses were collected along a 10 mile segment of the Clark Valley line in sagebush habitat. We will be working with UP&L to modify the segment of line through prime eagle habitat to reduce future losses.

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Mr. Joseph will continue these field investigations of coal company powerlines when requested and we will keep you informed accordingly.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert D. Johnson".

Area Supervisor

cc: Larry Dalton, DWR - Price, Utah
Dave Mills, BLM - Price, Utah
OSM - Denver, Colorado ATTN: Shirley Lindsey
Marty Phillips, LE - Salt Lake City, Utah
Clark Johnson, EOS - Salt Lake City, Utah