

0030



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

ok

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor
Kathleen Clarke
Executive Director
John Kimball
Division Director

Southeastern Region
475 West Price River Drive, Suite C
Price, Utah 84501-2860
435-636-0260
435-637-7361 (Fax)

April 24, 2002

Pamela Grubaugh-Littig
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
P.O. Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

*Copy Mary Ann,
Dawn, Priscilla, Susan
Jaloni
C/007/013*

Subject: RDCC Project # 1629, Determination of Administrative Completeness, New Permit Application, Lila Canyon Extension, Utah American Energy, Inc., Horse Canyon Mine C/007/013-PM02B

Dear Ms. Grubaugh-Littig:

In regards to the subject action, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources has the following comments.

As we have expressed before, we are concerned about the displacement of bighorn sheep and chukars from Lila Canyon. We are also concerned about the increased danger to pronghorn antelope along the proposed access road between Lila Canyon and highway SR-6. Finally, there are three eagle nests in very close proximity to the project site. Mining activities will undoubtedly evict the nesting eagles from this vicinity, and escarpment failure and cliff spalling will destroy habitat.

Mitigation measures discussed previously may alleviate some wildlife concerns, but the bighorn sheep, chukars and eagles will likely leave the area.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this proposed action and provide comment. If you have any questions, please call Leroy Mead, Habitat Biologist, at our Southeastern Region Office (435) 636-0274).

Sincerely,

Derris Jones
Acting Regional Supervisor

DJ/lm

RECEIVED

APR 29 2002

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS AND MINING