

0040

STATE OF UTAH  
NATURAL RESOURCES & ENERGY  
Wildlife Resources

ACI/007/016  
#2  
Scott M. Matheson, Governor  
Temple A. Reynolds, Executive Director  
Douglas F. Day, Division Director

1596 West North Temple • Salt Lake City, UT 84116 • 801-533-9333

May 9, 1983

Mr. Jim Shirazi, Director  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
4241 State Office Building  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Attention: Lynn Kunzler

Dear Jim:

We have reviewed the Mining Reclamation Plan (MRP) dated February 15, 1983, for Beaver Creek Coal Company's Gordon Creek No. 2 Mine. As you know this MRP replaces the original for which we provided comments on July 9, 1981. It is assumed that the revised vegetation and wildlife sections for which we provided comment on August 13, 1982, are also no longer valid, since they were replacements for similar sections in the original MRP. Enclosed are our specific comments.

Thank you for an opportunity to review and provide comment.

Sincerely,



Douglas F. Day  
Director

Enclosure

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MAY 11 1983

**DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING**

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Review Comments for Beaver Creek Coal Company's Mining and Reclamation Plan (dated February 15, 1983) for the Gordon Creek No. 2 Mine

Volume I

Page 3-41, 3.4.6.2 - Legal hunting activities are not viewed as having a significant negative impact to wildlife. Thus for the company to preclude hunting on the mine plan area cannot be viewed as a mitigation technique. The company may wish to control trespass in order to safeguard surface facilities; this does not necessarily improve conditions for wildlife.

Page 3-43, 3.4.6.3 - Threatened and endangered wildlife should be reported to UDWR, USFWS as well as UDOGM.

Page 3-64, 3.5.4.4 and page 3-73, 3.5.5.4 - If the applicant intends to use fence to preclude wildlife use of various areas the design specifications must be included in the MRP. Such a fence must be of such a character and height that big game will not attempt to pass and become entangled. The following fence specification would be adequate:

Two rolls of net--one 48" and one 36"--and two strands of barbed wire on top of the net and spaced 8" apart.

Pages 3-72 through 3-77 present an acceptable reclamation proposal. However, when this proposal is compared to Volume II, page 9-41, 9.7 it appears that the company may abandon reclamation efforts at a point where the landowner is satisfied. Such a practice may not be in accordance with UMC 817.116.

Page 4-40, 4.4.1 (agricultural) - The redirected use of water in both Carbon and Emery counties from traditional agricultural use to industrial and municipal uses due to growth associated with the energy industry has significantly impacted the agrarian community. Additionally, significant acreages of agricultural lands and associated wetlands have been dewatered due to redirected use of water. These habitat types were of critical value to many wildlife species.

The statement in paragraph 1 of 4.4.1 represent only the applicant's opinion and not the opinion of professional land managers local to Carbon and Emery counties.

Page 4-41, 4.4.1 (recreation) - If the applicant must discuss the regional management of wildlife in the MRP, then the statements presented need be adjusted to portray current conditions and management philosophy. The statements in the MRP relative to deer are not consistent with current knowledge, trends and conditions. The narrative concerning fish is also in error. The MRP states that there are 40 varieties of fish in the region; this is erroneous. Southeastern Utah is inhabited by 38 species of fish. The biogeographic area that surrounds the mine plan area is only inhabited by 14 species of fish and the mine plan area itself may be inhabited by 4 species of fish. This information was provided to the applicant on February 6, 1981. There seems no point in the

MRP listing species of fish pursued on regional basis for recreation. But if it is desirable, the applicant has failed to identify any warm water species. Lake Powell lies within the region and provides one of the best warm water fisheries in the nation.

Volume II

No comments.