



0015

STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Wildlife Resources

orig memo file
cc J Helfrich
D Loft
Norman H. Borgerter, Governor
Dee C. Hansen, Executive Director
William H. Geer, Division Director

1596 West North Temple • Salt Lake City, UT 84116-3154 • 801-533-9333

ACT/007/016

April 16, 1986

RECEIVED
APR 18 1986

Dr. Dianne R. Nielson, Director
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, UT 84180-1203

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

Attn: Joe Helfrich
Phil Rouse
Dave Loft

FILE COPY

Dear Dianne:

In regard to DOGM's inquiry concerning existing electric transmission lines associated with Beaver Creek Coal Company's No. 2 and No. 7 mines, the following is offered for your consideration.

All of the power poles lying on the permit property from the sub-station in Consumers Canyon up to the No. 2 mine are of a design that could electrocute raptors or any other large birds making use of the pole as a perch site. Poles between the No. 2 and No. 7 mines have been modified to be safe for raptor use, and poles extending down the canyon from the sub-station have recently been replaced by UP&L and are of a design that appear to be safe from perching raptors and other large birds.

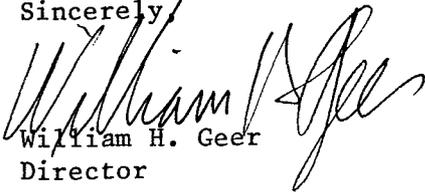
Concerning whether or not those poles that are deemed to be unsafe should be replaced, I am providing a copy of a memo from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to your office dated October 9, 1981. During August of that year, a Mr. Ron Joseph, the Fish and Wildlife Service's raptor specialist at the time, inspected those poles and made a determination that although they were unsafe for raptors they need not be replaced with a safe design. This position was developed, since raptors would not likely make use of those poles. Additionally, Mr. Joseph checked each and every pole to see if there was sign of raptor use or evidence of remains of dead raptors. Neither was found.

To date there has been no evidence that would cause us to recommend a change from the 1981 position. Therefore, it is recommended that the existing power poles between the No. 2 mine and the sub-station in Consumers Canyon remain unmodified for protection of perching raptors. At such time that routine maintenance dictates that those poles be replaced, then a raptor safe design should be installed. Additionally, if specific poles are found to be killing birds, they should be immediately modified.

Dr. Dianne R. Nielson, Director
April 16, 1986
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Thank you for an opportunity to review and provide comment on this situation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William H. Geer".

William H. Geer
Director

Enclosure