

January 2, 1987

TO: File

FROM: Kathryn M. Mutz, Reclamation Biologist *Kmm*RE: Remote Sensing Camera Monitoring, Gordon Creek #2 and 7
Mines, Carbon County, ACT/007/016, Folder #2.

Beaver Creek Coal Company's request to amend their permit by deleting the use of remote sensing cameras on their conveyor elk crossing is reasonable for the reasons they provide.

- (1) I have participated in their diligent effort to obtain the cameras for automatically recording movement near the crossings. The equipment is not easily available but they have actively pursued the only local supplier. I have contacted the supplier personally and was told they will no longer be able to supply the equipment.
- (2) Other equipment or methods cannot be reasonably be substituted at this time. To obtain maximum useful data, a monitoring program (with or without the cameras) should have been operational for the first period of migration after conveyor installation. Useful data might still be obtained on wildlife use of the crossing but it could not be evaluated in context without comparable data from the first two years.

The remote camera system was a reasonable monitoring plan as designed. The plan had relatively low capital and labor costs and it should have provided valuable information for planning/designing future conveyor systems. It is regrettable that the equipment has not been available. I feel that it is more reasonable at this time to cancel the monitoring program than to redesign and begin monitoring after the animals have already been conditioned by the conveyor's presence.

In the future, monitoring plans dependent on new equipment should include contingency plans for equipment problems or installation of the mine facility, i.e., the conveyor, should be delayed until the monitoring plan can be implemented.

cc: J. Whitehead
0531R-24