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United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
FISH AND WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT
UTAH STATE OFFICE
2078 ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
1745 WEST 1700 SOUTH
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84104-5110

orig mine file
Rec L Boulton
TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

In Reply Refer To
(FWE)

September 23, 1988

RECEIVED
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Diane Nielson, Director
Utah State Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
3 Triad Center
Salt Lake City, Utah 84108-1203

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

Dear Ms. Nielson:

Re: Power lines-Beaver Creek Coal Company-Gordon Creek #2 and #7 Mines
ACT/007/016 #5

A Fish and Wildlife Service staff biologist recently examined the powerlines servicing the Gordon Creek #2 and #7 mines and reaffirmed the determinations made in 1981 and 1984, that the pole configuration on the line from the substation to the mines proper constitutes a hazard to raptors.

Considering the habitat structure of the canyon/mine area the utilization of the poles by raptors would be limited. However, raptors have be observed utilizing the mine area and these poles do constitute a hazard that should be addressed.

Because of the minimal hazard to raptors the Fish and Wildlife Service would not recommend a major modification of these poles. We recommend that the ground wires on all poles be gapped 4 inches at least 12 inches below the crossarm. This would require minimal effort by the company yet provide significant additional protection for raptors from the hazard of electrocution.

The power line poles extending down the canyon from the substation were also examined and are designed to minimize hazard to raptors. However, it was not possible to determine if ground wires were properly gapped for raptor protection. This question should be answered, and the lines modified as recommended above if necessary.

If we can be of further assistance, please contact Clark D. Johnson (524-5649).

Sincerely,

Robert G. Ruesink
Robert G. Ruesink
State Supervisor

cc: OSM/Denver
UDWR/SLC
BLM/Price
FS/Price