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Norman H. Bangertter
Governor
Dee C. Hansen
Executive Director
Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D.
Division Director

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203
801-538-5340

October 6, 1988

Mr. Dan Guy, Manager
Permitting and Compliance
Beaver Creek Coal Company
P. O. Box 1378
Price, Utah 84501

Dear Mr. Guy:

Re: Powerline Modification, Beaver Creek Coal Company, Gordon
Creek #2 and 7 Mines, ACT/007/016, Folder #2, Carbon
County, Utah

On September 13, 1988, Clark Johnson of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) examined the powerline, servicing the Gordon Creek #2 and 7 Mines. Attached is a copy of his letter. The USFWS recommends that all powerpoles from the substation to the mines be modified by ground wire gapping. This minimizes the possibility of a raptor making simultaneous contact between an energized conductor and ground, while continuing to provide lightning protection.

You are hereby directed to complete the modification as requested by November 7, 1988. The Division will perform a follow-up inspection to document compliance shortly after November 7, 1988.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brent A. Stettler".

Brent A. Stettler
Reclamation Biologist

djh
Attachment
cc: J. Whitehead
WP+/17



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

September 23, 1988

In Reply Refer To
(FWE)



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

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SEP 26 1988

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

Dear Ms. Nielson:

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

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 been 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