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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

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ACT/003/006 #2

RECEIVED

MAR 22 1993

DIVISION OF
OIL GAS & MINING

March 12, 1993

Ms. Pamela Grubaugh-Littig
Permit Supervisor
Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

Subject: Revised Reclamation Permit for Gordon Creek No. 2/7/8
Mines

Dear Pam:

The Division of Wildlife Resources has reviewed Mountain Coal Company's revised reclamation permit. The following comments should serve as our primary concern.

After reviewing the discussion of the plans for the Sweet's Canyon Water Fill Area (sections 3.5.3.3 and 7.2.3.1), we would like to see clarification of the water rights situation. Are the Sweet Coal Company water rights the same rights that Blue Blaze Coal Company claims in their mine plan? The Division of Wildlife Resources has discussed and drafted agreements with Mountain Coal Company to help ensure that water rights are available to maintain aquatic and wildlife values. We do support maintaining the riparian and aquatic values related to these ponds but feel clarification of water rights and future use of these properties is in order. The riparian habitat value of this pond will depend on the future use of this area. If livestock grazing is intense, the riparian values will be diminished.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this plan. Perhaps a meeting with the Mountain Coal Company's representative, DWR representatives and your agency could clarify some of these concerns. If you have any questions or additional information, please contact Ken Phippen, Regional Habitat Manager (637-3310).

Sincerely,


Timothy H. Provan
Director

