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MAR 16 1989
DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

2890
UTU-64158
(U-066)

Moab District
Price River Resource Area
900 North 700 East
Price, Utah 84501

MAR 14 1989

Mike Glasson
Andalex Resources Incorporated
P. O. Box 902
Price, Utah 84501

Dear Mr. Glasson:

A meeting and field trip was conducted on January 31, 1989, to develop recommendations for Andalex Resources with regard to proposed development in the left fork of Deadman Canyon and an apparent conflict with a nesting golden eagle. The meeting was attended by Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR), Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (UDOGM) and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS).

The first part of the meeting served to acquaint representatives of the various agencies with proposed surface facilities in the left fork of Deadman Canyon and their proximity to a golden eagle nest documented active in 1981 and 1988. Two scenarios for development in the left fork were identified. The minimum development scenario was construction of a ventilation fan in the left fork. All other surface facilities required for the Aberdeen Mine in this scenario would be constructed in the right fork. The maximum development proposal was to construct the major facilities needed for the Aberdeen Mine in the left fork, including a main entry, top soil storage, material storage, coal stockpile, fan, power substation, truck loadout, major access road, and sedimentation pond. The meeting concluded at Andalex Resources' office when Lane Adair reported on the company's status with regard to development in the left fork and progress in exploring old mine workings in the right fork.

On the field trip, we visited the proposed facility location in the left fork and viewed its proximity to the golden eagle nest, approximately one-quarter mile away. Site specific issues discussed at the site included viewshed from the nest site (whether proposed facilities would be in direct line-of-sight), ability to move facility locations up or down canyon to avoid the one-half-mile buffer zone, etc. The following comments and recommendations were made on the two development proposals.

Minimum Development Proposal

There was general concurrence that a ventilation fan could be accommodated in the left fork, as shown in Figure 1, with no significant impact to golden eagle nesting activity.

Specific recommendations included:

1. The fan would be located out of line-of-sight for the eagle nest. Figure 2 shows the viewshed from the nest and indicates the proposed fan location would be acceptable with minor, if any, modification necessary.

2. Permit only minimal road upgrading for surface access to the fan.

3. The fan be constructed primarily from within the mine, including power, and that construction be completed outside the nesting period, February 1 to July 15.

4. Daily fan maintenance and inspection be conducted from within the mine.

Maximum Development Proposal

There was consensus among the agencies that maximum development as shown in Figure 1 would significantly impact golden eagle nesting activity. Specific recommendations included:

1. Disallow significant development, beyond minor road upgrading and the ventilation fan, within the one-half-mile buffer zone.

2. Maximize opportunities in the right fork for accessing and locating facilities for the Aberdeen Mine. This could include some rock tunneling to accommodate high-profile equipment.

3. Evaluate feasibility of constructing a rock slope to access old workings in the coal seam above the Aberdeen and utilize these workings to access the Aberdeen Mine.

In the event development of the Aberdeen Mine is not technically feasible from the right fork, the following recommendations should be used as guidelines in designing facilities for the left fork. It should be emphasized that such development within the one-half-mile buffer zone may impact the golden eagle nest and would require further coordination with the USF&WS and UDWR.

1. All active facilities (those involving nonstationary equipment operation or human activity) should be placed outside the one-half-mile buffer zone.

2. Passive facilities or structures (top soil storage sedimentation pond, etc.) should be located out of line-of-sight.

3. Vegetation such as quick growing poplars and earthen berms have been utilized to help shield facilities and minimize impacts to wildlife.

4. A covered coal conveyor system could be utilized to transport coal out of the one-half-mile buffer zone or even to surface facilities in the right fork.

One other issue, mule deer winter and/or transitional range was raised with respect to maximum development in the left fork. Any proposals with significant surface disturbance should include measures to mitigate impacts to habitats important for mule deer in the spring and fall transitional periods.

We are hopeful these recommendations will help avoid serious conflicts with development of the Aberdeen Mine and facilitate the issuance of appropriate rights-of-way for Andalex. If there are any questions about these recommendations, please feel free to contact David Mills of my staff at 637-4584.

Sincerely yours,

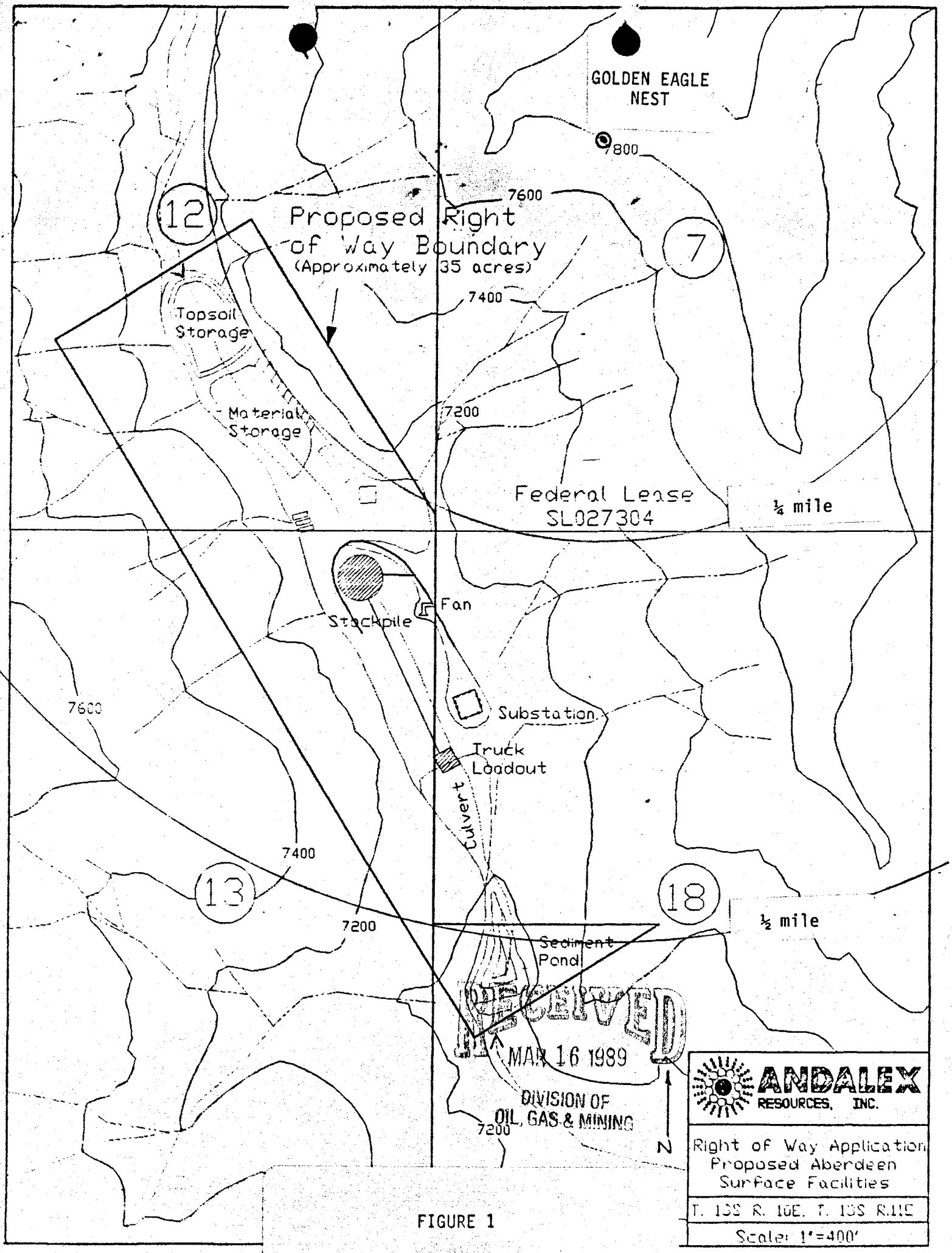
MARK E. BAILEY

Area Manager

Enclosures (2):
1-Figure 1
2-Figure 2

cc: UDWR
USFWS
UDOGM

DMills:ks:2/24/89
Wang 1359C


GOLDEN EAGLE NEST
7800
7600
12
Proposed Right of Way Boundary
(Approximately 35 acres)
7
7400
Topsoil Storage
Material Storage
7200
Federal Lease SL027304
¼ mile
Fan
Stockpile
Substation
7600
Truck Loadout
Culvert
7400
13
18
7200
½ mile
Sediment Pond
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DIVISION OF OIL, GAS & MINING
7200
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ANDALEX RESOURCES, INC.
Right of Way Application
Proposed Aberdeen
Surface Facilities
T. 13S R. 10E. T. 13S R.11E
Scale: 1"=400'

FIGURE 1