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PRO/007/020 *big mine file*
at Provan
P Grubaugh-Littig
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State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

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JUN 10 1991

DIVISION OF
OIL GAS & MINING

June 7, 1991

Dr. Dianne R. Nielson, Director
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, UT 84180-1203

Attention: Pamela Grubaugh-Littig

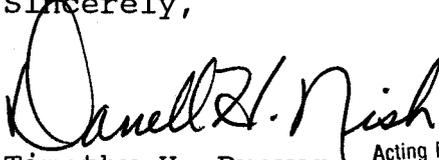
Dear Dianne:

The Division of Wildlife Resources has reviewed the Blue Blaze mine plan for its technical completeness. At this time our primary concern is with their water needs. An important issue the coal company refuses to detail is the availability of water to operate the coal mine. Water is, of course, an integral part of determining project feasibility. Simply stating "water will be purchased prior to the need for water in the mining operation" is not sufficient when DWR owns over fifty percent of the available water and has no intention of selling or leasing this water. Our Gordon Creek Wildlife Management Area is important winter range for mule deer and elk. This water in the North Fork of Gordon Creek and Beaver Creek is an integral part of our area management plan. We suggest the mine submit plans detailing their water needs.

About a year ago, DWR was approached about our water. The person making the inquiry did not identify himself as a representative of the mine but we assume that was the purpose. At that time we informed that person we were not interested in selling or leasing our water.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If your personnel have any questions concerning this issue, please contact Ken Phippen, Southeastern Region's Habitat Manager (637-3310).

Sincerely,


Timothy H. Provan Acting Director
Director