

0031



Norman H. Bangerter
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

file

February 14, 1989

TO: John Whitehead, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Brent Stettler, Reclamation Biologist *Brent*

RE: Powerline Modification, Andalex Resources, Inc., Wildcat Loadout Facility, ACT/007/033, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

On September 13, 1988, Clark Johnson of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) inspected the powerline within the Wildcat Loadout permit area. This was done at the Division's written request of August 17, 1988.

The USFWS replied with correspondence dated September 22, 1988, stating that powerpoles from the Andalex substation to the loadout facility, conformed to specifications for the prevention of raptor electrocution.

All of the poles from the Andalex substation into the loadout facility were armless in configuration. A raptor, perching on one of these poles, would be out of reach of energized phases, which are mounted on glass insulators approximately four feet below the top of each pole.

The USFWS did, however, question the raptor safety of three cross-arm configurations, between the Andalex substation and main Utah Power and Light Company (UP&L) line. The three poles in question are within the loadout's permit area but under UP&L control.

On December 7, 1988, I telephoned Jim Johnson, UP&L engineer in American Fork, about the three poles which were of concern to USFWS. Jim Johnson responded by visiting the loadout facility on December 8, 1988, and reporting his findings to me. It was his belief that installation of perch guards on the pole closest to the Andalex substation was the most appropriate modification.

Page 2

Memo to J. Whitehead

ACT/007/033

February 14, 1989

The other two poles toward the scale house could not be made raptor safe, short of major restructuring. He did not feel this was justifiable at the present time, but did say that UP&L is in the process of developing a plan to replace all powerpoles within the Gordon Creek drainage over the next five years. All powerlines would conform to "Suggested Practices for Raptor Protection on Powerlines - The State of The Art in 1981", published by Raptor Research Foundation, Inc.

Jim Johnson relayed his observations to Clark Johnson in a telephone conversation on December 16, 1988. Clark Johnson agreed that perch guard installation on the pole, closest to the substation, would be adequate to ensure raptor safety. He also agreed that major modification of the two outside poles was not justified, inasmuch as raptor use was unlikely because of the high level of human activity, and the fact that no raptor electrocutions had been documented in the past.

The USFWS concurs with a determination that the powerlines under Andalex Resources, Inc. control are raptor safe, and accepts UP&L's position on the three poles under their control. Certainly, if raptor electrocutions occur in the future, immediate modification of the offending pole must be made by the responsible party, as recommended by the USFWS.

djh

cc: M. Glasson, Andalex

C. Johnson, USFWS

AT67/1-2