



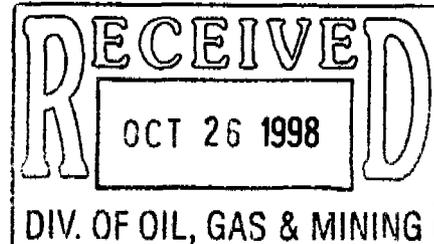
State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

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Oct 15, 1998

Paul Baker
Division of Oil Gas and Mines
1594 West North Temple
SLC, Utah 84114-5801



Re: Site specific buffer for raptor nests above proposed mine yard in C Canyon.

Dear Mr. Baker

*Copy Paul
PRO/007/041 #2*

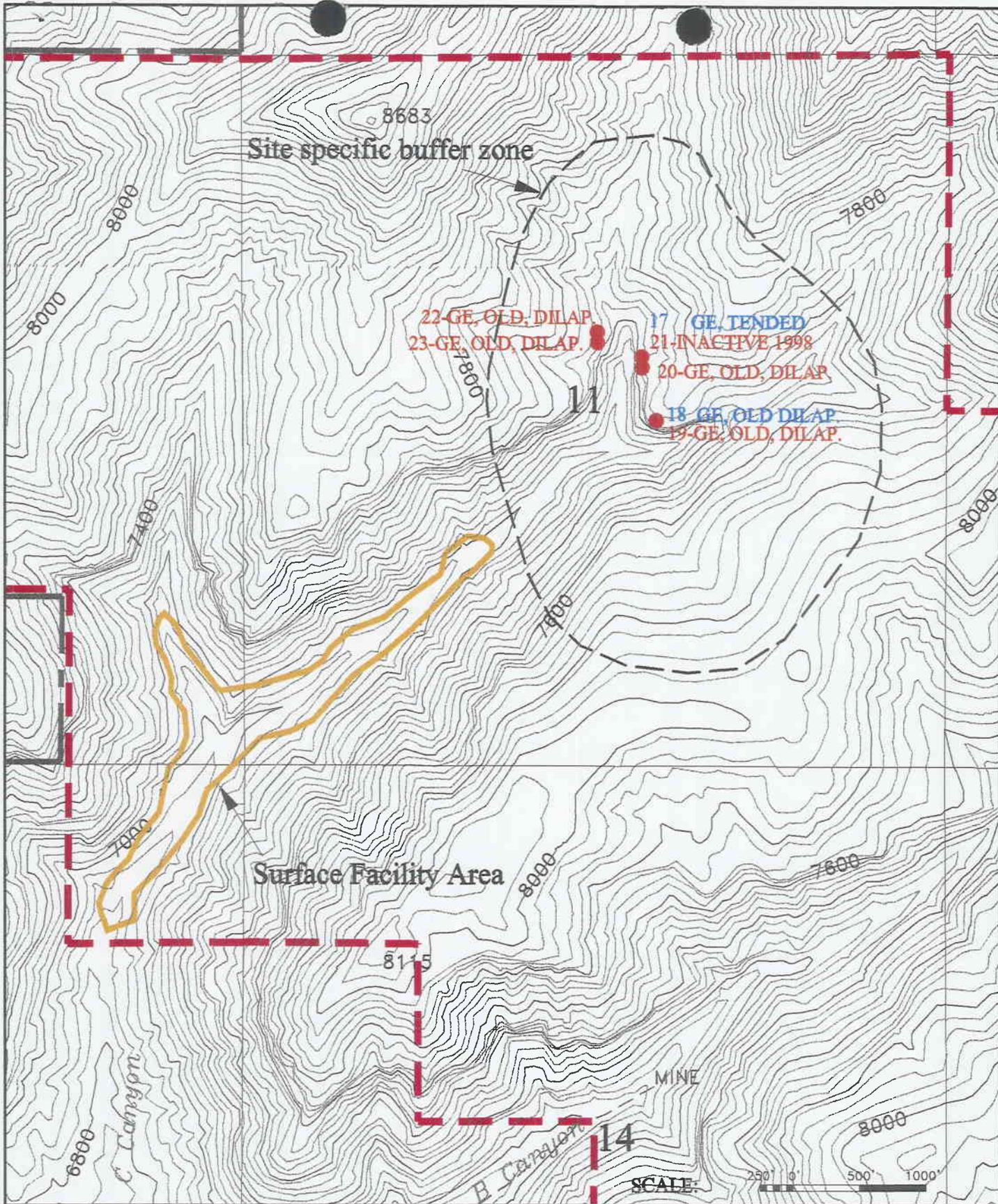
The Division of Wildlife Resources conducted raptor surveys in C Canyon in May 1998 to evaluate the impact the West Ridge Mine and the associated mine construction would have on raptor nests located in C Canyon. One inactive nest site exists in the left fork of C Canyon. This nest was found to be inactive during surveys conducted in 1997 and 1998 and is therefore considered abandoned. Although it is located within ½ mile of the proposed mine yard, mine construction and operation should have no impact on this nest.

Two nests are located in the right fork of C Canyon east of the proposed mine yard area. One nest was identified as being tended in 1997 and the other nest inactive in 1997. Survey work this year found both nests to be inactive. We evaluated the nest site locations with respect to the proposed mine yard. From the nest site locations, it is not possible to see the mine yard area due to the topography of the canyon, the intervening trees and aspect of the nest sites. The upper end of the mine yard would be used for a topsoil stockpile and once the stockpile is constructed, there would be little if any activity in this area. Therefore, it was determined that a site specific buffer zone could be established around the nests in the right fork of C Canyon which would protect the nest sites and also allow construction to occur in the upper end of the right fork yard area. The site specific buffer zone for the right fork of C Canyon is included on the attached map. It is our determination, based on the potential for minimal impact to the nest sites, that construction be allowed to proceed with the site specific buffer zone in place.

Sincerely,

Miles Moretti

Miles Moretti
Regional Supervisor



WEST RIDGE MINE
C Canyon
Site Specific Buffer Zone

LEGEND:

Surface Facility Area
 Permit Area Boundary



Raptor Nest - 1997 Survey
 Raptor Nest - 1998 Survey

