

0017

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

memorandum

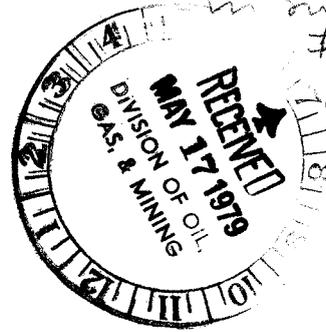
*Keep a copy
file original
in Swisher
#4
Emery Co.*

DATE: May 15, 1979

REPLY TO: Area Manager, Area 5
ATTN OF: Salt Lake City, Utah

SUBJECT: Huntington Canyon Mine #4, Swisher Coal Company
OSM Reference No. UT 0004

TO: Regional Director
Office of Surface Mining
Post Office Building
Denver, Colorado



We have reviewed the materials provided by Swisher Coal Company in response to your January 5, 1979 letter. The company responded to most item of concern to the Fish and Wildlife Service which were discussed in our December 13, 1978 memorandum to the Office of Surface Mining. However, there are several items that should be provided for in the mining plan, for this plan to be acceptable to the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The company's response indicated that vehicle movement will be restricted during the hours of darkness. This restriction should be clarified. Those periods of time most critical concerning game/vehicle collisions are the twilight hours (morning and evenings). We recommend that the company restrict vehicle movement to and from the mine property during the morning and evening twilight hours at least during those periods of the year when large game animals maybe concentrated in the area adjacent to the access road.

The Service is concerned about coal particles that are entering the creek in MillFork Canyon. One source of this material could be coal blowing from haul trucks. The company indicated that the loading of their haul trucks will be kept below the side boards to prevent this spillage. If this is shown to not be effective then we recommend that all coal trucks be required to cover their loads.

We recommend that the company be instructed to notify the Fish and Wildlife Service if any eagles or peregrine falcons are observed in the area of the mine operation.

Concerning the reclamation plan we want to emphasize that we believe the revegetation of the mine operation areas should be accomplished with a mixture of browse, forbs and possibly tree species as well as the grass species indicated in the plan.

We did not notice any indication that the proposed settling ponds would be reclaimed at the completion of their use. We recommend that the mining plan be modified to indicate that this must be part of the reclamation plan.



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OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
(REV. 7-76)
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6
5010-112
* GPO : 1978 O - 261-647 (3523)

It has been demonstrated in other areas of intensive mining activity that the incidence of illegal killing of wildlife has increased significantly with the advent of mining development. The Service recommends, as an aid in combating this loss of wildlife, that it be stipulated in the mining plan that the company prohibit their employees from possessing firearms while on company property. This would of course include their personal vehicles and as such would reduce the availability of firearms to these people while commuting between the mine and their residences.

With your consideration of the items outlined above we suggest that the mine plan submitted by Swisher Coal Company for the Huntington Canyon #4 mine be approved as it relates to fish and wildlife concerns. We understand, that although we had expressed concerns about the C.V. Spur area, that this particular area would not be considered under this mine plan. We suggest that the concerns that were noted for this area will be conveyed to the company with the hope that the company will consider these concerns in the operation of that load out area.

Robert H. Shield

CC: RO
DWR
FS
DOGM
Reading File