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# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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*file*

September 20, 1988

TO: John Whitehead, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Brent Stettler, Reclamation Biologist *Brent*

RE: Request to Suspend Annual Raptor Surveys, Beaver Creek Coal Company, Huntington Canyon Number 4 Mine, INA/015/004, Folder No. 2, Emery County, Utah

## Synopsis

Beaver Creek Coal Company (BCCC) has made the request to discontinue annual raptor surveys at the Huntington Canyon Number 4 Mine. Their request constitutes MRP Amendment Number ACT/015/004-88A.

## Analysis

The request was made after consultation with the Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR), which reserves the right to perform or otherwise regulate all raptor surveys in an effort to minimize harrassment to nesting pairs. In a March 23, 1988 letter to BCCC environmental consultant, Melvin Coonrod, Larry Dalton (DWR Southeastern Region Resource Analyst) described as adequate raptor data at all BCCC operations. Mr. Dalton stated that annual surveys for permitted facilities were not recommended, except where expansion of surface disturbance was planned. Further raptor surveys were not justified, according to Mr. Dalton.

The Division accepts DWR's finding that annual raptor surveys are unnecessary. Surveys will be required, however, where disturbance in previously undisturbed areas is planned.

## Recommendation

Annual raptor surveys may be discontinued without conditions.

djh

cc: L. Dalton, DWR  
D. Guy, BCCC

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