

File

PAM and Steve

NATOMAS
TRAIL
MOUNTAIN
COAL
COMPANY

#13

RECEIVED

APR 11 1983

**DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING**

April 11, 1983

State of Utah
Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
4241 State Office Building
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Dear Pam:

In reference to our submittal to the Division on a power line relocation, I would like to submit the design that Trail Mountain intends to use. This design is an approved design by the United States Department of Agriculture. (See enclosure Figure 10)

At this time, I would also submit varification of existing poles being "raptor protected." (See enclosure)

Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely



Allen Childs
Mine Engineer

AC/ja

Enclosures



STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES & ENERGY
Oil, Gas & Mining

4241 State Office Building • Salt Lake City, UT 84114 • 801-533-5771

Scott M. Matheson, Governor
Temple A. Reynolds, Executive Director
Cleon B. Feight, Division Director

November 26, 1982

Mr. Andy King
Natomas Trail Mountain Coal Company
P.O. Box 370
Orangeville, Utah 84537

RE: Raptor Protection on Powerlines
Trail Mountain Mine
ACT/015/009
Emery County, Utah

Dear Mr. King:

The U S Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has completed a survey of existing powerlines as per your request of May 26, 1982. The USFWS has found the design and construction of the existing powerlines at the Trail Mountain Mine to be "safe" to raptors (survey results enclosed). Therefore modification of the existing powerpoles will not be required.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

LYNN KUNZLER
RECLAMATION BIOLOGIST

LK/lm

cc: OSM, Albuquerque
Ken Wyatt, DOGM

Enclosure



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
AREA OFFICE COLORADO-UTAH
1311 FEDERAL BUILDING
125 SOUTH STATE STREET
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84138-1197

November 10, 1982

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Cleon Feight, Director
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
4241 State Office Building
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Dear Mr. Feight:

This letter is written to inform you of two field trips to examine potentially hazardous powerlines within the permit boundaries of the mines described in your letter dated August 18, 1982. Mr. Ron Joseph of my staff has completed a review of the distribution lines of the following mining companies. Overall, he found no eagle remains beneath the lines examined nor does he suspect any problems with the lines in question. The following is a brief summary of each site visited and a description of the configuration examined. When possible, he examined the lines with company personnel.

Valley Camp of Utah Inc.

Mr. Joseph met with E.B. Foust, Chief Engineer to survey the lines of Valley Camp's Belina Mines and Utah #2. The three phase Belina lines for the most part traverse high timbered mountainous terrain. Previous Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) surveys have not shown a problem with powerlines in coniferous cover primarily because trees themselves offer much better perch sites than crossarms of power poles. As an added precaution, Mr. Foust pointed out to Mr. Joseph where Valley Camp has erected perch sites in areas where the Company believed a problem could exist within the Belina Mine complex. However, on close examination, the lines did not reveal any use by raptors.

Mr. Foust also toured Mr. Joseph through the Utah #2 Mine area across from its headquarters. Due to extensive mining near the facilities and associated human activity, it is unlikely that raptors would use the lines. Again, trees dominate the landscape and raptor perch use is undoubtedly confined to trees and ridges.

Utah Power and Light (UP&L); Des-Bee-Dove, Wilberg, Deer Creek Mines

Des-Bee-Dove

Ron Joseph met with Scott Rassmussen, UP&L District Manager in Castledale, Utah, to examine the forementioned mine sites. The Des-Bee-Dove mine lines consist predominantly of 69KV three phase powerlines. The configuration is safe since adequate conductor clearance exists on the 10-foot crossarms should an eagle attempt

to perch on the pole. Much of the line traverses habitat used by wintering golden eagles. In fact, an adult golden eagle was observed using one crossarm as a perch. Mr. Joseph walked segments of the 3-4 mile line passing through relatively flat, sparsely vegetated habitat and documented some use of the lines by raptors. However, no remains were found and more importantly the lines are constructed such that birds are not likely to be electrocuted when using the crossarms as perch sites.

Wilberg

Mr. Rassmussen also showed Mr. Joseph the Wilberg line. The three phase line is energized with 69KV and is constructed such that eagles and other raptors are not likely to be electrocuted. As with the Des-Bee-Dove line, the Wilberg line has adequate conductor clearance on the 8-foot crossarm and center pole. A minimum of 42 inches separates the conductor on the pole top and those on the crossarm. Approximately 1-2 miles of line traverses habitat used by jackrabbits and no remains of rabbits or eagles were evident beneath the crossarms. Therefore, we do not anticipate any electrocution problems with the Wilberg line.

Deer Creek

The Deer Creek Mine line is constructed without a crossarm. Raptors are unable to perch on the staggered conductors of the 12KV line thereby eliminating electrocution hazards.

Trail Mountain and Knight

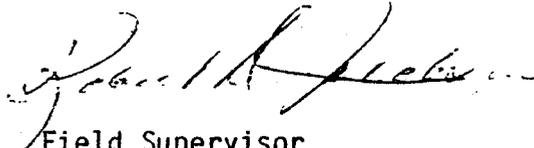
Mr. Rassmussen accompanied Mr. Joseph in the field to examine the UP&L lines providing power to the Trail Mountain Mine, Natomas Coal Company. The 12KV lines parallel the road and are of an armless configuration; a design which is safe for raptors because it prevents perching. The Knight Mine is of the same configuration as the Trail Mountain Mine. No problems are expected with the lines to the Knight Mine.

Beaver Creek Coal Company, Castle Valley Spur

Dave Myers of Beaver Creek Coal Company met with Mr. Joseph at the C.V. Spur facility and both walked the length of the line. The armless configuration and close proximity of the line to the C.V. Spur accounts for the lack of raptor use of the powerlines.

In summary, Mr. Joseph examined the lines described in your August 18, 1982, letter and has not found any to be a threat to eagles or other raptors. Please feel free to contact us once again if we can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,


Field Supervisor
Ecological Services

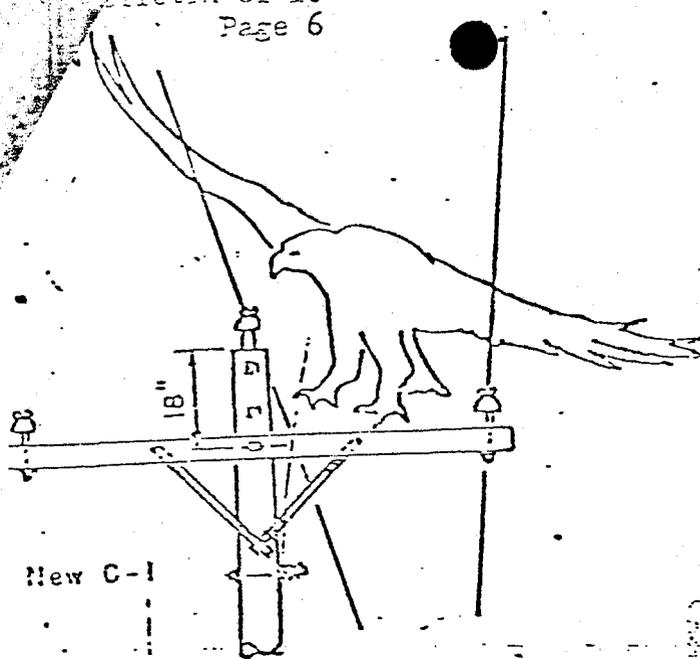
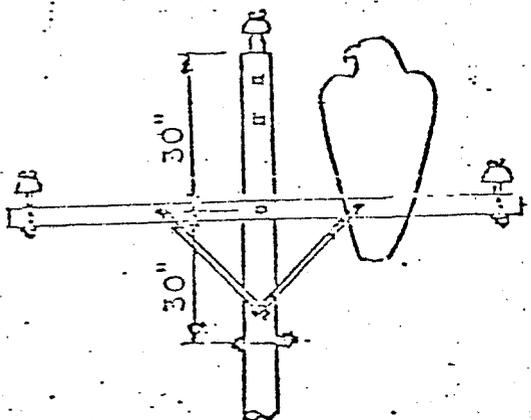


Figure 9

Figure 9 shows the post 1962 REA standard three-phase construction. The use of wood braces and the lowered crossarm should make this structure relatively safe for large birds. However, in the event electrocutions are experienced, the center phase should be covered as described in the preceding paragraph to avoid phase-to-phase contacts.



Proposed three-phase line assembly for eagle areas.

Figure 10

New Three-Phase Construction

For new construction in areas frequented by eagles and other large birds, it is recommended that the crossarm and neutral conductor be lowered as shown in Figure 9. All other features of standard construction including positioning of the ground wire and the use of wood crossarm braces should be as shown in REA standard drawings.

Other New Construction

Single-phase construction should be in accordance with Figure 2.

Single-phase transformer installations should make use of transformers with reinforced parts and joints.