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From: Ingrid Wieser
To: Nicole Nielson
CC: OGMCOAL
Date: 12/7/2009 10:53 AM
Subject: Re: Trail Mountain Mine Permit Renewal
Place: OGMCOAL

Hi Nicole-

Trail Mountain Mine is currently in cessation, meaning there is no activity currently occurring at the mine site. They are required to renew the permit with us until they reclaim the site. So, any raptors currently at the site would not be disturbed.

When the mine notifies us of a.) recommencement of mining operations, b.) reclamation operations or c.) any activity above what is currently occurring, then we would do a number of steps in protecting raptors. These steps could include: the company adhering to raptor nesting buffer periods, additional surveys, mitigation including artificial nest structures, enhancement of prey habitat etc.

In the mine's approved Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP), you can find the protection and enhancement measures for all wildlife in and adjacent to the mine's permit area. The permit renewal essentially reinstates this MRP. We can put additional wildlife protection measures as stipulations to the permit if necessary, but that rarely needs to be done because all of the protection measures should be covered in the MRP. Finally, we usually review the MRP during the midterm review which occurs midway through the permit or 2 1/2 years after the permit issuance. Here, if any protection plan is outdated or inadequate, we will require the permittee to update it for our approval. We can, however, do this update process during the permit renewal or any time as a Division order to the permittee.

A copy of the MRP can be found in our Price Field Office (just down the hall from you). It is available for you at any time to review. At any time, if you feel that the protection plan is inadequate or should be reviewed, we can definitely do that. Let me know if you have any other questions, or call me. I would be glad to go through an MRP with you so that you know how they are set up and what we require. Thanks for your questions, hope this helps!

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>>> Nicole Nielson 12/7/2009 10:35 AM >>>
Ingrid,

I just received information regarding the Trail Mountain Mine renewal permit through the RDCC process. I notice that there are raptor nests near the mine portals. Has there been any steps taken to protect these raptors? I am not familiar with what goes into permit renewals, what kinds of wildlife protection are identified within the permit renewals?

Thanks for your help

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