



Norman H. Bangertter
Governor
Dee C. Hansen
Executive Director
Timothy H. Provan
Division Director

State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Southeastern Region
455 West Railroad Avenue
Price, Utah 84501-2829
801-637-3310

orig mine file
cc: LP BRAXTON

ACT/015/017

#12

RECEIVED
AUG 17 1990

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

August 3, 1990

Dr. Dianne R. Nielson, Director
Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180

Dear Dianne,

The Division has reviewed the five-year permit renewal for Utah Power and Light's Des-Bee-Dove mines. The mine area encompasses deer habitat characterized as high priority summer range and critical value winter range. Both critical and high priority valued elk winter range are also found at the mine area. The Fish and Wildlife Resources Information should more accurately rank the wildlife habitat area; specifically, page 2-134 (Wildlife Habitats, paragraph 1) and page 2-140 (Game Species; Mule Deer and Elk).

It is well known that raptors utilize the Des-Bee-Dove area for breeding. Although the plan incorporates a procedure for raptor nest mitigation (4-35), precautions can also be taken to minimize the potential for impacts to the birds during their crucial breeding period (February 15 to May 1). Major construction activities, surface disturbances, and mining should be avoided within a 0.5 mile radius of active nest sites to allow the raptors to lay eggs and raise young.

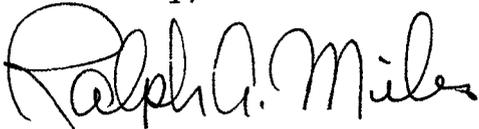
Des-Bee-Dove is located in a steep, rocky, dry canyon. During mine operation, the access roads through the mine area and to the portals are used by mine personnel as well as for biannual cattle drives accessing East Mountain. Page 4-27 states that the present road system will be left upon closure of the mine to provide greater public use of the area. Due to the steep, dry terrain as well as the wildlife value of the area, the Division recommends closure of all the mine access roads to vehicular traffic and revegetation of the roads including the East Mountain access trail. The roads and trails should also be closed to cattle use for 2 years following seeding to allow the successful establishment of vegetation. After that time it is recommended that the access roads be used only for cattle drives by horseback. Installment of a gate would help control public use of the area.

All disturbed areas at the mine site should be revegetated upon completion of mining activities; included here are the sediment pond and sediment disposal area referred to on 4-26, paragraph 1.

If hand broadcasting of any of the disturbed areas is utilized and the seed not covered, the amount of seed in the revegetation prescriptions should be doubled. Broadcast seed can be covered by dragging with a chain or similar method.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ralph A. Miles". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name of the person it represents.

for Timothy H. Provan
Director