



DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

DOUGLAS F. DAY
Director

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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May 14, 1981

Reply To SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE
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(801) 637-3310

Mr. Chris Shingleton
Utah Power and Light Company
P.O. Box 899
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110

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MAY 20 1981

DEER CREEK
ACT/05/08A

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

Dear Chris:

As you know there exists a concern for the potential "barrier" effect that overland coal conveyors may pose for migration or daily movement of big game ungulates. During late April and early May, 1981 the Division has had opportunity to make an indepth evaluation of this type of situation at a local mine in Wattis Canyon along the eastside of the Wasatch Plateau. Measurement shows that significant numbers of mule deer can and do pass below conveyor spans that present clearances of only 21 to 36 inches.

In view of our recent findings it seems reasonable to speculate that the conveyor controlled by Utah Power and Light Company in Deer Creek Canyon should not represent a "barrier" to wildlife movement. Sufficient lengths of that conveyor provide adequate clearance and are located such that they should allow for passage by mule deer. On April 29, 1981 Larry Dalton documented evidence of deer crossing under the conveyor at three different points each providing 30 inches of clearance.

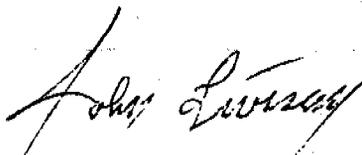
It is probable that employees associated with the Deer Creek Mine have over the years observed deer making crossings beneath the conveyor. It would be beneficial to the Company's interest and the Division's expansion of knowledge for this area of concern to document such activity along the Deer Creek conveyor. I would recommend that the supervisors at the mine poll their employees and provide Utah Power and Light Company with documentation of any such observations. The Division would also appreciate a summary of that evaluation.

The Division has not yet had an opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of overpass type structures for allowing passage of mule deer over the top of an overland coal conveyor system. If Utah Power and Light Company would be agreeable and could provide such a structure along the Deer Creek conveyor the Division would welcome an opportunity to follow through with monitoring deer use. I suggest that our Resource Analyst, Larry Dalton, and yourself meet during mid-June to discuss the practicability of such an endeavor. It is also at that time that the Division will have completed evaluation of deer crossings underneath another conveyor and we can then brief you on our findings.

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Mr. Chris Shingleton

I hope this information and the statement of the Division's position concerning the Deer Creek conveyor will assist the Company in application for a coal mining and reclamation permit.

Sincerely,



John Livesay, Supervisor
Southeastern Region

JL:LBD:gp

cc: Darrell Nish
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
✓ Division of Oil, Gas and Mining