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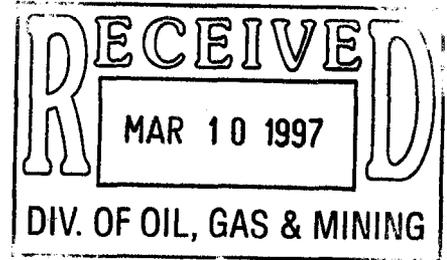


State of Utah  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

015/018 # 2  
cc: Daron  
Susan

Michael O. Leavitt  
Governor  
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Executive Director  
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Division Director

1596 West North Temple  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116-3195  
801-538-4700  
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March 5, 1997

Mr. James W. Carter, Director  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210  
P.O. Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

Attn. Mr. Daron Haddock

Re: North Rilda Lease Extension, PacifiCorp, Deer Creek Mine, ACT/015/018-97C, Folder #2, Emery County, Utah

Dear Mr. Carter:

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) has reviewed the above mentioned mine permit expansion and has the following comments.

In the mine permit application, the stream above the forks is marked green around the riparian area. Is this area considered a stream buffer zone? The area contains substantial riparian values and should be protected with a buffer zone.

The operator should not mine in any areas that would allow potential subsidence effects (as indicated by the angle of draw) to affect any riparian area.

We have monitored raptor nests in a cooperative project with PacifiCorp for the past several years. There have been no active nests in the area for the proposed extension in the last year. If active nests are found, we request that subsidence not be allowed to affect them.

The Rilda-Mill Fork area has significant historical raptor use. To avoid adverse impacts, the area needs to be monitored yearly by helicopter to quantify the presence of raptors. A take permit is necessary if any nests are removed due to subsidence.

Elk are seasonally common and moose are possible temporary residents throughout the year in the area. Both animals should be included in the FISH & WILDLIFE section of the Biology chapter. The area is classified as Critical Elk Summer Range and Critical Elk Winter Range. The area is classified as Moose habitat along the riparian areas.



Mr. James W. Carter  
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We appreciate the opportunity to review this permit renewal and provide our comments. If you have any questions please contact Ben Morris or Bill Bates (801-637-3310) at UDWR's Southeastern Regional Office in Price.

Sincerely,



John Kimball  
Acting Director