



Rilda Env Assn  
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DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

September 1, 2004

Lucia Malin, Environmental Scientist  
 State of Utah, Department of Natural Resources  
 Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
 1594 West North Temple, suite 1210  
 PO Box 145801  
 Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5801

Dear Ms Malin,

The Utah Environmental Congress (UEC) appreciates your letter of July 21, 2004 regarding the **PacifiCorp Deer Creek Mine – Rilda Expansion Project**. We are encouraged to learn that the proposal is going to be modified such that 1,200 feet of Rilda Creek will not be placed in a 'culvert.' We understand from your letter that, when DOGM determines that the revised plan to construct a mine portal on the North side of the road to be complete, that revised plan will become the Proposed Action to be analyzed in an environmental assessment (EA).

The UEC hereby incorporates all earlier comments that have been submitted by the UEC and Wildlaw Southwest into these comments.

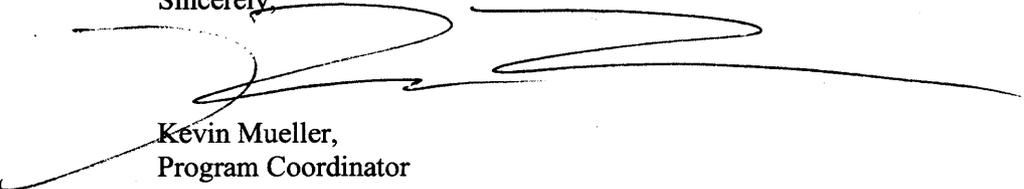
We look forward to the opportunity to submit comments on the Proposed Action when that has been finalized. Please include useful maps (preferably in 1:24,000 scale) with the notice of opportunity to comment on the proposed action so that the public and other Agencies may learn exactly where the proposed facilities may be located. It may be helpful to display the IRA boundaries on this map, as well as springs, streams, as well as the locations of Forest Plan management area prescriptions.

Direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to TEPS, MIS and FS Sensitive aquatic, terrestrial, avian, and migratory bird species continues to be a concern that should be explored. Effects that can be avoided should be avoided. Unavoidable direct, indirect, and cumulative effects should be mitigated.

The UEC also request the opportunity to review and comment on the EA that is prepared before a decision document has been prepared.

Please keep us on all mailing lists for this project, and mail the UEC hard copies of all environmental documents as they become available for review and comment. Thank you very much for your time and effort.

Sincerely,



Kevin Mueller,  
 Program Coordinator

CC: Joel Ban, Wildlaw Southwest, UEC attorney