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UPFL

SCOTT M. MATHESON  
Governor

OIL, GAS, AND MINING BOARD

GORDON E. HARMSTON  
Executive Director,  
NATURAL RESOURCES

STATE OF UTAH  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS, AND MINING  
1588 West North Temple  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116  
(801) 533-5771

I. DANIEL STEWART  
Chairman

CHARLES R. HENDERSON  
JOHN L. BELL  
THADIS W. BOX  
C. RAY JUVELIN

CLEON B. FEIGHT  
Director

August 1, 1978

Mr. Ralph Jerman  
Utah Power & Light Co.  
P.O. Box 899  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110

Re: John Bell Mine  
ACT/015/009-Trail Mountain

Dear Ralph:

Enclosed please find a memo which was transmitted to the BLM from the Salt Lake City Fish and Wildlife Service office. You will note that F.W.S. is concerned about pollution in the form of sediment runoff from John Bell's mine on Cottonwood Creek.

It is our understanding that Utah Power and Light Company anticipates culverting Cottonwood Creek in this local to provide more space for its west portal for the Wilberg Mine and coincidentally more space to John Bell's Trail Mountain mine for surface facilities.

If the above understanding is true, could you arrange to send us preliminary plans as well as a time schedule of said culverting activity?

Our goal is to eliminate duplication of efforts here by operators and at the same time abate any pollution hazard if it exists.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ron Daniels".

RONALD W. DANIELS  
COORDINATOR OF MINED LAND DEVELOPMENT

RWD/sp

enc: Memo from Fish and  
Wildlife Service  
July 21, 1978



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

AREA OFFICE COLORADO-UTAH  
1426 FEDERAL BUILDING  
125 SOUTH STATE STREET  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84138

*lets get on this  
2. don't want any plans  
of collecting*

*7*

In Reply Refer To

July 21, 1978



MEMORANDUM

TO: State Director, Bureau of Land Management  
Salt Lake City, Utah

FROM: Area Manager, Fish and Wildlife Service  
Salt Lake City, Utah

SUBJECT: Lease Modification, Lease No. 08-2996 - John Bell Coal Company

We understand that this proposed lease modification was presented at a public hearing in Price, Utah on July 6, 1978.

The Fish and Wildlife Service is very disturbed about the degradation of aquatic habitat in Cottonwood Creek occurring from the present operations at John Bell Coal Company. Mine operations encroaching on Cottonwood Creek have caused significant siltation in the creek. Run-off from the mine yard carries coal into the creek. Mine drainage water is allowed to drain directly to the creek. These conditions are detrimentally effecting a substantial fishery in Cottonwood Creek.

This situation has existed and has been documented for more than a year. During the course of this time, the mine operator has been contacted by State and Federal biologists and also representatives from the State Office of Oil, Gas, and Mining concerning the rectification of this problem. The discharge of silt and coal into Cottonwood Creek is in violation of the Surface Mine Reclamation and Control Act. Mr. John Bell has been unresponsive to the efforts to correct this situation.

Considering the continuing nature of this problem and the attitude of the mine operator, the Fish and Wildlife Service believes it is inappropriate to lease or to modify existing leases for Federal coal for a mine operation presently in violation of the law. The Fish and Wildlife Service, therefore, recommends that this lease modification be denied unless corrective action is initiated and performance bonded by the mine operator.

Lease stipulation should provide for lease revocation if problems of environmental degradation re-occur at this mining operation in the future.

*Robert H. Shultz*

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