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United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
AREA OFFICE COLORADO—UTAH
1311 FEDERAL BUILDING
125 SOUTH STATE STREET
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84138

IN REPLY REFER TO:

November 6, 1980

RECEIVED
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DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

Mr. Cleon B. Feight, Director
Division of Oil, Gas, Mining
1588 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Attention: Mary Ann Wright

Predesign Wildlife Consulation
Utah Power & Light Company
Wilberg Mine, UT-0001
Des-Bee-Dove, UT-0015
Deer Creek, UT-0016
Cottonwood Portal, UT-0061

Dear Mr. Feight:

These mining operations of the Utah Power & Light Company are all ongoing operations and basic disturbance of wildlife habitats and wildlife resources have already transpired. We do believe that the mine plan should include a vegetation map of the mine plan areas showing vegetational communities, species composition of those communities and occurrence of all natural water sources. We do not believe that any necessity exists for initiating new studies to increase the biological baseline available for preparation of the mine plan. This refers only to the existing ongoing operations. If expansion of operations or disturbances of new areas are contemplated, then these areas must be surveyed.

To the best of our knowledge, no endanagered or threatened plant species or critical habitat for threatened or endangered wildlife species occur in the disturbed areas of the subject mining operations.

The foregoing comments are applicable with one exception; the disturbances that occurred at the Cottonwood portal are recent. An examination of the area around the portal for nesting raptors should be initiated. Any further development activity occurring in the area could detrimentally affect any nesting raptors that maybe adjacent to the facilities.

It is our opinion that opportunities exist to mitigate or enhance wildlife resources on these mining areas through proper consideration of wildlife management concepts during the preparation of the fish and wildlife plan. We hope that the Company would cooperate with the Division of Wildlife Resources and the Fish and Wildlife Service to include in their plan acceptable proposals that would accomplish the mitigation or enhancement for these wildlife resources.

Sincerely yours,

Robert H. Shields

Robert H. Shields
Area Manager