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*Director*

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

December 5, 1980

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

RE: Utah Power & Light Co.  
Cottonwood Portal  
ACT/015/027  
Emery County, Utah

Dear Mr. Shingleton:

Enclosed are the guidelines which were compiled by the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining as a result of the consultation with the agencies having jurisdiction over fish and wildlife and habitat in the mine plan area. Please be reminded of the requirements of MC 771.23(c) when writing your permit application.

Enclosed for your use in preparation of the Fish and Wildlife Plan for Part UMC 784.21 and for compliance with performance standard 817.97(c) are the guidelines for the design and construction of electric power lines.

Should any questions arise concerning these matters, please call me.

Sincerely yours,

MARY ANN WRIGHT  
RECLAMATION BIOLOGIST

MAW/te

Enc: Guidelines

cc: UDWR, SERO

USFWS, Clark Johnson

OSM, Shirley Lindsay

Cottonwood Portal  
ACT/015/027  
Utah Power & Light Company

Guidelines for Fish and Wildlife and Habitat  
Information Pursuant to UMC 783.20  
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Aquatic Studies

1. Biological Community Survey - UMC 817.57.

Area: Any streams to be impacted by development of surface operations within 100 feet of the streams. Specifically, Cottonwood Creek may be impacted by mining operations.

Time: Spring, Summer.

Purpose: Determine the presence or absence of any "biological communities", as defined in UMC 817.57 for the designation of buffer zones. The Division can make this determination upon request. Discuss the importance of the invertebrate drift to Straight Canyon Creek as a food source to the fishery in that creek. Protection measures can be provided through hydrologic and air resource protection measures. These should be so noted in the plan.

2. Fish Study

Area: Cottonwood Creek/Straight Canyon Creek.

Time: Determine from existing information.

Purpose: Identify from existing data the potential occurrence, relative abundance, status, populations trend and preferred habitat. The Division of Wildlife Resources can provide this data or request or use can be made of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources library and data files. Formal written requests should be made to Mr. Larry Wilson of the Price office of the Division of Wildlife Resources.

Terrestrial Studies

1. Raptor Survey

Area: The areas of disturbance plus a zone of 1 km. radius surrounding the site. The cliffs and forested areas around the portal site should be surveyed this spring.

Time: February through June. Several visits throughout the nesting season may be needed to determine if nesting occurs in the area.

Purpose: Assess occurrence and location of any raptor breeding sites. The use of the area by raptorial species needs to be determined. Sightings and nests must be documented and mapped. Use of Technical Note TN-316, Nesting Habitats and Surveying Techniques for Common Nesting Raptors by Mayo W. Call, Bureau of Land Management is recommended.

The present mine plan already notes that conspicuous breeding birds include the turkey vulture, great horned owl, red-tailed hawk, and golden eagle. Avoidance or mitigation can be planned for if conflicts arise.

2. Migratory Birds of High Federal Interest Survey

Area: Any areas of proposed disturbance.

Time: Spring.

Purpose: The present mine plan for the fan portal site notes that the Western bluebird (Sialia mexicana) is a typical species expected to be found at the site. Was the site actually surveyed for the listed species? Provide further information to clarify occurrence through either the use of field surveys or habitat affiliation information. This information can then be utilized to determine the impact to this species. Mitigation or habitat management can be planned for.

3. State Protected Species Study

Area: Any area of proposed disturbance.

Time: Determine from existing information.

Purpose: Provide further information to clarify the occurrence of the Utah mountain king snake, Utah milk snake and the Tiger salamander. Address the probability of their occurrence in the area by habitat requirements. This information can then be utilized to determine impacts to these species. Mitigation or habitat management can be achieved with this information.

4. Federally Listed Threatened or Endangered Species Survey

Area: Mine plan area.

Time: N/A.

Purpose: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has responded on this point in a letter to the Division dated November 6, 1980. "To the best of our knowledge, no endangered or threatened plant species or critical habitat for threatened or endangered wildlife species occur in the disturbed areas of the subject mining operations." This should be so noted in the mine plan.

5. Survey of All Other Vertebrates—Amphibians, Reptiles, Birds and Mammals

Area: Mine plan area.

Time: Information can be gained from existing information.

Purpose: Provide data on presence, status, relative abundance, population trend and preferred habitat type for all species inhabiting the mine plan area. Present habitat preference information to correlate with data collection from habitat (vegetation) studies. Much information is already presented in the mine plan concerning vertebrate species inhabiting the area. Habitat correlations are also provided. This information should be sufficient and should be utilized in reclamation and mitigation plans.

6. Habitat Survey

Area: Mine plan area.

Time: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter.

Purpose: To assess the condition, trend and types of habitat within the mine plan area. In the course of other field studies, areas of special use for wildlife, such as heavily used riparian areas, large mammals dens and snake dens, should be noted and mapped. This information should be utilized in reclamation and mitigation plans.