



## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
 ECOLOGICAL SERVICES  
 2060 ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
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 SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84104-5110

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

DIVISION OF  
 OIL, GAS & MINING

(ES) February 5, 1987

To: Acting Deputy Administrator, Office of Surface Mining  
 Denver, Colorado  
 Attn: Richard Holbrook

From: Field Supervisor, Ecological Services  
 Fish and Wildlife Service, Salt Lake City, Utah

Subject: Mid-term Review of the Wilberg Mine

As per your request of December 19, 1986, we are providing the following comments. We are including the Cottonwood Mine in our review because of the joint use of facilities and because production in Wilberg or Cottonwood appear closely intertwined.

Our review of the attachment to the DOGM letter dated November 3, 1986 found us in agreement with the points they raised. There should be a clearer picture of their proposed mining sequence. Will the production in Wilberg be resumed in areas away from the area of the fire. We note that planned mining under the eagle nests in Miller Canyon has been postponed several years. Has the crisis for immediate production been resolved? We strongly recommend returning to the original 5 year sequence which emphasized development of the southernmost part of the Cottonwood Mine prior to mining under the Miller Canyon nests. This would allow thorough review of the impacts to nests in Newberry Canyon without an operational commitment in Miller Canyon.

cc: DOGM-SLC  
 DWR-Price, SLC