

November 27, 1987

TO: Coal File

FROM: Brent A. Stettler, Reclamation Biologist

RE: November 20, 1987 Wilberg Mine Tour to Review Golden Eagle Study in Newberry Canyon, Utah Power and Light Company, Wilberg Mine, ACT/015/019, Folder #2, Emery County, Utah

On November 20, 1987, Val Payne of Utah Power and Light Company (UP&L) escorted Larry Dalton of Division of Wildlife Resources, Lynn Kunzler and myself to the Wilberg Mine for a look at the eagle nests in Newberry Canyon.

Val Payne is permitted by the USFWS and UDWR to take the eagle nests in Newberry Canyon. Cliff spalling in late May, 1987 destroyed two eagle nests. Nest 61-C was occupied by a pair of eagles, which successfully fledged one eaglet. Val Payne tentatively plans to cover nest 61-C during the 1988 nesting season to preclude activity. It is hoped the eagle pair will use one of the other alternate nests available. Concurrent with nest monitoring, spalling and subsidence above longwall panels 6 and 7 will be monitored using survey instruments and prisms.

Larry Dalton expressed his concern that UP&L plans to proceed with coal recovery under Miller Canyon before the test case in Newberry Canyon is completed. He further expressed unwillingness to issue future take permits, until one or more year's data had been collected in Newberry Canyon.

Val Payne was upset by Larry Dalton's position, contending that another research opportunity would help solidify conclusions about eagle response to spalling and underground mining.

djh
cc: J. Whitehead
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