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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:

July 6, 1983

RECEIVED
JUL - 8 1983
DIV. OIL, GAS, MINING

Dr. G.A. Shirazi, Director
Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
4241 State Office Building
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Dear Dr. Shirazi:

Ron Joseph of my staff recently met with members of your Division to examine powerlines of several coal company lines in east central Utah. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with recommendations for the three mine sites visited during the two day field trip.

Mr. Lynn Kunzler, Mr. Joe Helfrich, and Ms. Mary Boucek accompanied by Ron Joseph met with CO-OP Mine officials on June 14, 1983, to assess raptor powerline conflicts. Most of the powerlines examined are three-phase configurations energized with 12.8 Kv of electricity. The design is not an approved raptor safety configuration as specified in REA bulletin 61-10 or "Suggested Practices for Raptor Protection on Power-lines... The State of the Art 1981". However, the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) does not recommend that these lines be modified to conform with raptor protective designs because it is unlikely that eagles and hawks will perch on the crossarms. Members of both agencies examined the base and crossarm of several poles and could not observe evidence of raptor use. Two major factors contribute to the lack of raptor use on CO-OP mine powerlines. The lines are located at the bottom of the canyon and are not the most elevated perch structures from which an eagle or hawk can scan the surrounding terrain. The canyon ridges are heavily wooded and offer a greater array of perch sites and hunting habitat than afforded by the powerlines.

Secondly, the human activities associated with the mine site further reduces the attractiveness of the powerpoles as perch sites.

The J.B. King Mine lines were also evaluated on June 14, 1983 as a potential hazard to perching raptors. The FWS recommends that six poles northwest of the office building be modified to prevent raptor electrocution. Installation of either an inverted "V" or perch sites between conductors will greatly reduce the likelihood of raptor electrocution. We make this recommendation because the powerline traverses open country with few natural elevated perch sites.

On June 15, 1983, the powerlines of SUFCO were inspected by FWS and DOGM personnel. No potential adverse impacts are expected since company personnel installed artificial perch sites above conductors on hazardous powerlines. This trip concludes the inspection of all existing coal

mine company powerlines in Utah. Please contact us if we can be of additional assistance to your staff and the Division. We appreciate your interest in reducing raptor electrocutions in Utah.

Sincerely yours,

Acting Field Supervisor
Ecological Services

cc: DWR, Price
HR/RO, Denver