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State of Utah  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

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Act 1015/025

*Orig mine file  
Acute thru 4. Brayton  
cc P. G. Litty UB*

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DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING

February 12, 1990

Dr. Dianne R. Nielsen, Director  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining  
355 West North Temple  
3 Triad Center, Suite 350  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

Subject: Coop Mining Company/Bear Canyon Mine Plan

Dear Dianne:

Coop Mining Company's Bear Canyon Mine Plan has been reviewed by the Division. The following are concerns that need to be addressed.

The plan does not establish the presence of golden eagle nesting at the mine area. Maps of known nesting locations are available at the Division of Wildlife Resources in Price. Section 23 of the permit area contains three known nests, while Section 14 has two. These nests are critical to maintenance of the eagle population at the mine site. Escarpment failure due to subsidence could have adverse impacts and must be avoided.

Mule deer heavily use the permit area and this has been noted in the plan. However, Plat 10-1 shows some of the area to be of high priority value to the animals. The Division ranks the entire area as being of critical value to the mule deer.

The discussion of Swareflex wildlife warning reflectors on page 10B-10 should be deleted. A 1989 study conducted by UDWR and UDOT showed the reflectors to be ineffective at reducing deer/highway mortality. For now, the best means of achieving the goal seems to be awareness by the drivers and a safe speed limit.

In addition, there are editorial corrections. The Division's list of fauna at the mine site includes 239 species: 5 fish, 6 amphibians, 17 reptiles, 136 avifauna, and 75 mammals. Sections 3.5.6.1 and 10.3.2.3 still state that there are 84 mammal species present.

Bald eagles are not known to nest at Bear Canyon, and this has been stated correctly in the mine plan. There are, however, two currently used nesting sites in Utah along the Colorado River. Section 10A-12 must be corrected as it gives only historical reference to bald eagles nesting in Utah.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the mine plan and provide comment.

Sincerely,

Timothy H. Provan  
Director