



United States Department of the Interior  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

UTAH FIELD OFFICE  
LINCOLN PLAZA  
145 EAST 1300 SOUTH, SUITE 404  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84115

In Reply Refer To

(CO/KS/NE/UT)

September 28, 2000

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
OIL, GAS AND MINING

Pamela Grubaugh-Littig  
Coal Regulatory Program  
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210  
P.O. Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

*Incoming*

RE: Determination of Administrative Completeness for Permit Renewal, Co-Op Mining Company, Bear Canyon Mine, ACT/015/025-RN00, Outgoing File

Dear Ms. Grubaugh-Littig:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has reviewed your letter of July 28, 2000 and additional materials provided by your office giving specific fish and wildlife resource information. Generally, we concur with the issues identified and steps that should be taken to address them. In particular, we concur with the Findings as listed below, with the following modification: the Findings require the applicant to cooperate with Wildlife Resources and the Division. We request that the FWS be included among those agencies that should be consulted, especially with regard to mitigation for potential impacts to raptor nests.

The Findings are:

R645-301-333. The applicant needs to show how they will use the best technology currently available to protect and enhance critical big game habitat in the proposed surface facilities area. The applicant needs to develop a mitigation plan in cooperation with Wildlife Resources and the Division.

R645-301-333. The application needs to contain more design information about the conveyor. The conveyor should be designed to not overly restrict movements of wintering deer and elk.

R645-301-333. Use of the raptor nests near the proposed surface facilities will probably be adversely affected during the operations. At least two options are available for mitigating this loss, and the applicant needs to develop and implement a mitigation plan in cooperation with Wildlife Resources and the Division.

**This is your future. Don't leave it blank. - Support the 2000 Census**

We urge the Division and the applicant to continue to take steps to identify and avoid sensitive plant species and wetland areas.

We note that Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation has been completed for this project. We have no additional concerns regarding fish and wildlife resources.

If the FWS can be of further assistance, please contact Dr. Lucy Jordan at the letterhead address or telephone (801) 524-5001 ext. 143.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Reed E. Harris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Reed E. Harris  
Utah Field Supervisor

cc: UDWR - SLC, Price