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State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

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→ Mine file 015/032 #2
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DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

February 23, 1989

L.G. Manwaring
Coal Systems, Inc.
5320 So. 900 East
P.O. Box 17117
Salt Lake City, Utah 84117

Ref: Nevada Electric Lease Exchange/Genwall Coal Mine

Dear Gus:

In regards to Nevada Electric's exploration drilling proposal on their lease exchange area in Huntington Canyon, the following concerns are provided for your use in developing an exploration plan. The habitats associated with all of the drill sites represent parturition areas for big game (mule deer, Rocky Mountain elk and moose). Man's disturbance other than casual use, such as staking of a drill site, should be precluded between May 15 and July 5. This would adequately protect the birthing activities of big game animals.

Three golden eagle nests lie within a zone that would be influenced by the drilling project. Nest No. 1-87-273 (SWSW Sec 29, T 15 S, R 7 E) was inactive in 1987 -- was tended as evidenced by greenery. Nest No. 1-81-167 (NENW Sec 5, T 16 S, R 7 E) was inactive in 1981 -- tended as evidenced by greenery in 1982 and 1987. Nest No. 1-81-172 (NENW Sec 32, T 16 S, R 7 E) was inactive in 1981 and could not be found in 1986 and 1988. Likely, natural deterioration has caused its demise. A one-half mile radius buffer zone surrounding eagle nests No. 1-87-273 and 1-81-167 should be protected from any of man's disturbances when they evidence use. The breeding pair normally initiates use of their nest territory by February 1. A nesting attempt can be verified by June 1 and fledging normally occurs by July 15. Locally, some higher elevation nests have experienced a delay in reproductive processes that could extend fledging to July 31. Division biologists will monitor this situation during 1989.

At which time that a development of a Mining and Reclamation Plan is initiated, the Division would be eager to provide further information and comment relative to a mining project.

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Gus, since helicopters, along with wheeled equipment will be used, it is recommended that no new roads be developed. Any surface disturbed areas must be revegetated. Aircraft overflights should be planned such that at least 500 feet distance to the ground is maintained in all areas except landing zones. This will avoid disturbance to the local area's wildlife.

Thank you for your interest in Utah's wildlife resource.

Sincerely,



Larry B. Dalton
Wildlife Program Manager
Resource Analysis/Habitat Protection

cc: Darrell Nish, DWR
Linda Seibert, BLM
Rod Player, USFS
Clark Johnson, USFWS
Lowell Braxton, DOGM
Charlie F. Vaughn, Nevada Electric