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State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Norman H. Bangerter
Governor
Dee C. Hansen
Executive Director
Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D.
Division Director

355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203
801-538-5340

January 31, 1989

Mr. Clark Johnson
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
2060 Administration Building
1745 West 1700 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84104-5110

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Re: Updated MRP pages, Genwal Coal Company, Crandall Canyon Mine, ACT/015/032, Folder #2, Emery County, Utah

Enclosed is one (1) copy of updated pages for Genwal Coal Company's Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP) for the Crandall Canyon Mine. These deal with wildlife issues and address concerns raised by the Division of Wildlife Resources.

Please review these, along with the information you have received in prior submittals, to determine if the plan is sufficient to provide protection of the golden eagle nest located in the New Lease area. A written or verbal reply would be appreciated by February 17, 1989.

Sincerely,

Susan C. Linner

Susan C. Linner
Reclamation Biologist/
Permit Supervisor

Enclosure
cl
cc: J. Leatherwood
BT45/158

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year. The golden eagle nest high on the ridge north and east of the existing mine portal area (Plate 10-1), is the only raptor nest in Crandall Canyon according to information supplied by the Division of Wildlife Resources, in Price, Utah. This nest has been inactive since 1982. Some areas of the canyon are being used as a hunting range by raptors. A listing of the raptors are included in Table 5 incorporated within Item 10-3. The second nest (187.723) shown on Plate 10-1 was tended during the DWR 1987 monitoring, but with no signs of eggs or young, this nest is located outside of the proposed mine area, but there is a possibilty that the raptor tending this nest may hunt in Crandall Canyon.

10.4 EXPECTED IMPACTS ON MINING OPERATIONS ON FISH AND WILDLIFE

Development and operation will unavoidably impact several vertebrate species through habitat destruction and increased human presence. Better access will increase hunting pressure on big game species in the area. Crandall Creek has been determined to be a fishery and will be protected as such.

There will be approximately 38 truck trips per day on the haul road with a designated speed ranging to a maximum of eight miles per hour wile loaded hauling down grade and to a maximum of 18 miles per hour while empty. Based on this speed and the width of the road, the chance of a wildlife truck collision is minimal. The applicant notes that the road off the permit area is a public road under the jurisdiction of the USFS. During the past five years of operation there has been no vehicle/wildlife mishaps on Crandall Canyon Road.

The haul road and surface facilities within the permit area will not disturb any winter range for deer or elk. Plate 10-1 shows elk and deer winter range in the valley bottoms.

Crandall Canyon represents only a portion of winter habitat for moose, the winter range encompasses all the Huntington drainages, with a tremendous amount of unoccupied adjacent habitat, reference Larry Dalton, the impacts will be minimal. The 0.5 acre winter range to be disturbed, of which the riparian habitats are ranked as being of critical value, only approximately 3000 square feet of riparian habitat will be disturbed. According to Larry Dalton of the State of Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, there is a tremendous volume of adjacent unoccupied habitat suitable to absorb displaced moose. The southeastern Utah moose herd is proliferating at a substantial pace due to the abundance of suitable unoccupied habitat.

As a majority of the road is outside of the permit area with

3. Embankment erosion control measures will consist of rip rapping those sections which will encroach upon Crandall Creek, refer to Plates 3-1, 3-4, 3-5 and 3-7.

4. It is specified in Chapter 12 that pillars are to be designed to ensure that no unplanned subsidence should occur within 200 feet of the center line of Crandall Creek. No mining is proposed under the streams.

5. The area not to be disturbed will be designated a buffer zone and marked as specified in UMC 817.11.

6. The applicant states that monitoring of Crandall Creek on a weekly basis during the construction phase will verify the extent of any impact to Crandall Creek water quality. Applicant will sample for water quality weekly for the following parameters: TDS, TSS, pH, EC and water temperature. The two sampling sites will be as follows: (1) above the construction site at 300 feet upstream from the quarter corner designated as station 2A on the construction drawings; and (2) below the construction disturbance at station 72+50. Turbidity measurements will also be taken daily at both sampling locations.

7. The applicant commits to the development and implementation of appropriate mitigation plans with the regulatory authority should stream flow diminish significantly or water quality deteriorate.

8. The original stream channel will not be altered.

9. During and after mining, the water quality and quantity from the stream section within 100 feet of the underground coal mining activities shall not be adversely affected.

A copy of the plan to meet the above requirements was submitted to the Utah Bureau of Water Pollution Control in 1982, with a request for a temporary variance to sediment control standards during the applicant's construction phase.

Turbidity measurements will be taken daily as indicated. The samples will be taken to a certified lab, and we will request the analysis for turbidity results be indicated in NTUs. That should satisfy the request for turbidity studies as suggested by DOGM.

Applicant has submitted final drawings, refer to Plate 3-1,

(13) Williamson's Sapsucker (Sphyrapicus thyroideus): An uncommon summer resident of high coniferous forests and burns, whose range does not include the Huntington Canyon area.**

(14) Lewis' Woodpecker (Asyndesmus lewis): A little known summer resident and transient preferring scattered or logged forests, burns, cottonwood groves and Ponderosa Pine, but whose range does not include the Huntington Canyon area.

(15) Great Blue Heron (Ardea herodias): A common resident of marshes, shallow reservoirs, rivers, streams, shores and irrigation ditches. The swift water and dense streamside growth along Crandall and Huntington Creek would not be suitable habitat for a Great Blue Heron. The beaver ponds in Crandall Canyon are very small and not likely to attract a heron.

(16) Long-billed Curlew (Numenius americanus): An uncommon summer resident and transient partial to meadows, pastures, and wetlands. None of these habitats are found in Crandall Canyon, nor nearby in Huntington Canyon.

(17) Band-tailed Pigeon (Columba fasciata): An uncommon summer resident and transient of forests, canyons, foothills near mountain brush (acorns) and agricultural lands. Although not seen during the spring, summer, and fall of 1980, this species could find suitable habitat in Crandall Canyon.

** The DWR states that the Williamson's Sapsucker has been known to nest in environs typical to those found in Crandall Canyon. Therefore they disagree with Valley Engineering, Inc. report dated November 1980.

Horizontal movement which would create slope failure is not expected to occur due to subsidence along the escarpment because only limited coal outcrop occurs within the lease. Within that area of old works no pillar extraction is anticipated. Areas along Huntington Creek directly above the coal outcrop have a slope of aproximately 60% and the limited escarpment faces which produce the concern for failure are located approximately 1000' above the coal seam. As with areas in the western part of lease SL 062648 and at the COOP's Trail Canyon and Bear Canyon Mines and the Beaver Creek #4 mine no escarpment failure has occurred.

Horizontal movement creating tension or compression cracks can not be projected due to the overburden thickness and lack of jointing density and attitude data along the surface rock exposures.

12.4.3 SUBSIDENCE CONTROL AND MITIGATION METHODS

As previously presented within this report, no material damage or diminution of value or foreseeable use of lands is expected to occur. Genwal has been in consultation with the BLM and received their concurrence with the conclusions presented in this document, a copy of the BLM correspondence may be found in Exhibit 12-7. Displacement of wildlife due to subsidence may be minimal. However, springs within the potential subsidence limit are a significant resource to local wildlife and may be impacted. Refer to Section 3.4.6.2 for proposed mitigation.

In the event grazing is negatively impacted due to the occurrence of surface subsidence, the operator will compensate the owner or appropriate party by paying the fair market value of the loss experienced. The compensation will be made only after the loss is proven to be a direct result of the subsidence impact. Discussions are currently under way with the Utah Division of Wildlife on the need for the installation of wildlife guzzlers. Any required installation will be addressed in the wildlife section. A raptor nest is located within the area of potential subsidence in Lease Area U 54762, Lot No. 3 (compare Plates 10-1 and 12-2). This nest was inactive when inspected by helicopter in 1982 and 1987 (see Section 10.3.3). If this nest becomes active and is to be affected by subsidence, a mitigation plan will be developed by Genwal in conjuction with the DWR and DOGM prior to disturbance. At the present time Genwal Coal Company plans on leaving barrier pillars to protect the nest. The nest will be monitored prior to pillaring of the area directly affecting the nest and a determination made in conjunction with the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, BLM and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources as to the status of the nest and any mitigation that may be necessary.