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

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August 18, 1997

TO: File

THRU: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor 

FROM: Paul Baker, Reclamation Biologist

RE: Raptor Information Update, Canyon Fuel Company, Convulsion Canyon Mine, ACT/041/002-97B, Folder #2, Sevier County, Utah

SUMMARY:

Canyon Fuel has proposed to amend its mining and reclamation plan by including recent raptor survey information. There are also a few minor changes to the text.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

FISH AND WILDLIFE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-322

Analysis:

The application contains an updated map showing the most recent raptor nesting information. Also included is a table showing the status of raptor nests in the mine area. In 1997, no active eagle nests were found, there was one buteo nest with two chicks, and an active peregrine falcon nest was found outside the permit area.

Based on mining projections in the 1996 annual report and the information in the amendment, no nests should be affected by mining this year. If mining proceeds in a logical sequence in 1998, two nests are very close to the area that might be affected by

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subsidence. This should be further evaluated with the 1997 annual report.

There are two minor changes to the text. One reflects the finding of a peregrine falcon nest near the permit area, and the other updates the status of a fan portal from proposed to existing.

Findings:

Information provided in the proposal is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The information in this amendment meets the requirements of R645-301-322 and can be approved. Based on information in the mining projection map, no raptor nests should be affected by subsidence in 1997, but this should be reevaluated in 1998.