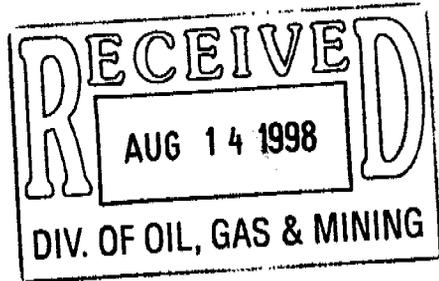




United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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



In Reply Refer To

(CO/KS/NE/UT)

August 10, 1998

Ms. Mary Ann Wright
Associate Director of Mining
Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
Salt Lake City, UT 84115

1.2
ACT/041/002 #2
Paul, Daron

RE: Link Canyon Ventilation Portal and Substation, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC, SUFCO Mine,
ACT/041/002-98-1, Sevier County

Dear Ms. Wright:

We have reviewed the permit application for the revisions to include a ventilation portal and substation in Link Canyon and offer the following comments.

Page 3-24 states that an historic golden eagle nest and a tended peregrine falcon scrape were located "within the buffer zone" from the Link Canyon breakout and substation. It is unclear from this description how close the proposed action is from the nest sites. Potential level of disturbance could depend on the actual distance of the nest from construction and operational maintenance activities. Also, this description does not define the buffers; our recommended buffer zone is 0.5 miles for the golden eagle and 1.0 mile for the peregrine falcon.

Canyon Fuel Company has committed to delay construction until after August 15 to minimize impacts. For peregrine falcons we recommend no construction activity within the spatial buffer from February 1 through August 31 and for golden eagles, January 1 through August 31; please clarify whether construction will be completed prior to the start of the following breeding season.

Page 3-35 states that after the breakout and substation are in place, very little mining activity will occur in the area. Please describe what mining activity is anticipated with respect to known raptor nest locations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. If we can be of further assistance, please contact Laura A. Romin of this office at (801) 524-5001, ext. 142.

Sincerely,

Reed E. Harris
Field Supervisor