

A. E. Whiteman
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88-RF-2115

- For NEPA documentation purposes and for purposes of compliance with Federal wildlife protection regulation, the general plant operation, 903 Pad, 881 Hillside, Landfill, FBI EA, and PRMP EA actions have been determined to have no effect on any of these species. This is conditioned upon a continuous evaluation of the presence of nesting Swainson's hawks in Woman Creek.

- Consultation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service on endangered species is required by law for any major Federal project. This includes at a minimum any project that requires an EA. Clearances on endangered species must be updated yearly.

The enclosed letter from Mr. Whiteman to Jeffrey Opdycke of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service requests formal confirmation of the above findings. This is to complete documentation on RFP controversial projects.


George W. Campbell, Assist. Director
Health, Safety and Environment

Orig. and 1 cc - A. E. Whiteman
Enc.

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Mr. Jeffrey Opdycke
State Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Colorado State Office
529 25 1/2 Road, Suite B-113
Grand Junction, Colorado 81505

FIELD INSPECTION OF ROCKY FLATS PLANT AND VICINITY

On June 15, 1988, Mike Lockhart of your office participated in a field inspection of the Rocky Flats Plant and vicinity. This visit was conducted as part of the consultation required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. The following summary points were identified:

- * Present and planned plant operations will not adversely affect bald eagles at the site. Eagles are infrequent visitors at Rocky Flats. Any unusual gatherings of bald eagles will be reported to the Fish and Wildlife Service.
- * Black-footed ferrets, if present, could potentially be affected only if prairie dogs are controlled or if prairie dog colonies will be affected by construction. The only action planned which may cause concern is prairie dog control. If rodents are controlled, black-footed ferret surveys will be conducted prior to disturbance. Mr. Lockhart will forward details on ferret searches to DOE.
- * Routine plant operations, the fluidized bed incinerator trial burn, the plutonium recovery modification project, and the 903 pad, 881 Hillside and Landfill RCRA/CERCLA clean up actions will not adversely affect threatened or endangered species.
- * Other species of Federal interest, such as Swainsons hawks and burrowing owls will be evaluated prior to any disturbance at the plant site. If these species are present, consultations will be continued with your office on protective measures for those species.

It is desirable for this agency to have a written communication in return from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service confirming the findings on threatened and endangered species due to the high public profile of several of the planned actions at this site.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Rick Lawton of Rockwell International at (303) 966-7079 (FTS: 320-7079).

A. E. Whiteman

cc: C. C. Jierree
Ron Reed