

5. COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT EA AND RESPONSES

A total of four comment letters (A-D) were received following circulation of the Draft EA. Copies of these letters are presented on the following pages of this section of the Final EA. On each letter are notations that identify specific substantive comments (A.1, A.2, C.2, D.5, etc.) on the Draft EA.

NEPA requires comments on the Draft EA to be considered in this section provides responses to environmental issues raised regarding the environmental effects of the proposed project. Comments that state opinions about the overall merit of the project or comment on the project description are generally not responded to unless a specific environmental issue is raised within the context of the specific comment made. DOE, the decision-maker in relation to the Proposed Action, considers these comments and responses to these comments on the Draft EA.

The following letters were received:

- A. United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, Colorado Field Office, LeRoy W. Carlson, Colorado Field Supervisor. Letter dated March 27, 2003.
- B. Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Tribal Information Services, Edna Frost, Director. Letter dated February 25, 2002.
- C. Jefferson County Planning and Zoning Department, Michael Smyth, AICP, Planner. Letter dated April 14, 2003.
- D. Sentinel and Transcript Newspapers, Golden Transcript, Sabrina Henderson, Golden Editor. Email Message March 24, 2003.

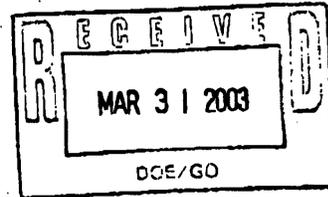
The following discussion provides a response to each substantive comment on the Draft EA. Some responses (A.2, C.29, C.31, C.32 and C.41) involved revising the text presented in the Draft EA. The other comments and responses did not require revising the text of the Draft EA. The text of this Final EA includes the entire text of the Draft EA and the appropriate revisions.

A



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ecological Services
Colorado Field Office
755 Parfet Street, Suite 361
Lakewood, Colorado 80215



IN REPLY REFER TO:
ES/CO: T&E/
Mail Stop 65412

MAR 27 2003

Ms. Roselle Drahushak-Crow
NEPA Document Coordinator
DOE Golden Field Office
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, Colorado 80401-3393

Dear Ms. Drahushak-Crow:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received your Draft Environmental Assessment dated March 5, 2003, regarding the proposed addition and operation of the South Table Mountain Complex in Jefferson County, Colorado. These comments have been prepared under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et. seq.), the Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940 (BEPA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 668 et. seq.), and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (MBTA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 703 et. seq.).

Based on the information contained on the disk, the Service believes that the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect any Federally listed species. However, the operation of the complex could have an adverse affect on migratory birds and raptors that utilize the area. Antennas, wind driven turbines and lighting may all have a negative affect on the birds by causing direct mortality and disrupting breeding, nesting and foraging behaviors. In addition, nests may be disturbed during the construction phase and less area will be available for nesting after the complex is completed. The Service recommends that best management practices be implemented to address these issues.

A.1

A.2

Thank you the opportunity to comment on your project. If the Service can be of further assistance, please contact Jeff Peterson at (303) 275-2370.

Sincerely,

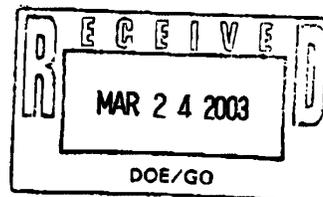
LeRoy W. Carlson
Colorado Field Supervisor

B



SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

T R I B A L A F F A I R S B U I L D I N G



March 18, 2003

NEPA Document Manger
Attn: Roselle Drahushak-Crow
DOE Field Office
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, CO 80401-3393

Subject: National Renewable Energy Laboratory's South Table Mountain
Complex (DOE/EA 1440)

Dear Ms. Drahushak-Crow:

I have reviewed your letter of March 5, 2003, and, at this time, believe there are no known impacts to areas of Native American cultural sites that are sensitive to this Tribe in regards to the proposed actions noted on the above location. In the event of inadvertent discoveries of Native American sites, artifacts, or human remains, this Tribe would appreciate immediate notification of such findings.

} B.1
} B.2

Should you require additional comments or have any questions, feel free to contact me, at the number listed below, extension 2209.

Sincerely,

Neil B. Cloud
Neil B. Cloud
NAGPRA Coordinator

Cc: Howard D. Richards Sr., Chairman
Southern Ute Indian Tribe