



Coward, Timothy <tcoward@blm.gov>

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**RE: Bird Mortalities at Crescent Dunes**

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**Rob Howe** <Rob.Howe@solarreserve.com>

Thu, Jan 15, 2015 at 4:01 PM

To: "Coward, Timothy J (tcoward@blm.gov)" <tcoward@blm.gov>

Cc: "Lightfoot, Nancy" <nancy.lightfoot@stantec.com>, Tracy Kipke <tkipke@ndow.org>, "Vittori, Josh" <josh.vittori@stantec.com>, "Seley, Wendy" <wseley@blm.gov>

Tim,

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In addition to the mitigation described above, we will ensure that the CIC is present and observing with a radio. Protocols are in place to make sure if we see any bird issues he can communicate immediately to project staff and we can take appropriate action. We will continue to make sure we have a CIC present during these tests until we are certain the issues have been resolved.

Please let me know if you need any further clarification.

Regards, Rob

**Rob Howe**

*Cell: 1.828-335-2020 / Dir: 1.310.315.2270*

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**From:** Rob Howe  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2015 9:51 PM  
**To:** 'Tim Coward ([timothy\\_coward@blm.gov](mailto:timothy_coward@blm.gov))'  
**Cc:** Lightfoot, Nancy; Tracy Kipke; 'Vittori, Josh'; Seley, Wendy  
**Subject:** RE: Bird Mortalities at Crescent Dunes

Tim,

I spoke with Wendy this evening about this and she suggested I forward Josh's email to you tonight.

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CIC will be on site tomorrow and continue observing. We will ensure that we are in constant communications with him by radio to ensure he can quickly communicate any issues he observes so we may react and make further adjustments to mitigate problems.

In light of what occurred today, I would like to have the CIC and perhaps another biologist on site whenever

we are doing this testing to ensure we have continuous observation.

Wendy indicated she will be on site tomorrow and I'll touch base with her to discuss further. We will ensure you are kept up to speed on this as we move forward.

Please feel free to contact me any time to discuss this.

Regards, Rob

**Rob Howe**

*Cell: 1.828-335-2020 / Dir: 1.310.315.2270*

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**From:** Vittori, Josh [<mailto:josh.vittori@stantec.com>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2015 5:25 PM

**To:** Seley, Wendy

**Cc:** Rob Howe; Lightfoot, Nancy; Tracy Kipke

**Subject:** Bird Mortalities at Crescent Dunes

Wendy,

I left a voicemail with you at about 4:00 p.m. this afternoon regarding mortality observations at the Crescent Dunes Project today. During Tonopah Solar's testing today there were about 1/3 of the heliostats pointed above the power tower, which formed a halo that is about 1,200 feet off the ground. Our CIC inspector and mortality biologists observed approximately 130 birds fly into the flux halo above the power tower and become white flashes with a small smoke cloud immediately following. These observations occurred over a four hour period. There were no carcasses that they could find on the ground below the tower but it is clear that these are bird mortalities. Species determinations are very difficult at the distance that the birds are flying but the mortalities appear to be song birds with some ravens and what may have even been a falcon.

I have already been in contact with Tracy Kipke at NDOW and she is up to speed. If you would, please contact Nancy Lightfoot or myself sometime tomorrow morning.

Thanks,

Josh

**Joshua Vittori**

Project Manager

Environmental Science/Biology

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