



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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ACT/007/005  
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TO: Dianne R. Nielson, Director  
FROM: Paul Baker, Reclamation Biologist   
DATE: March 30, 1992  
RE: N92-37-1-1

Daron asked me to provide you with some clarification of the vegetation monitoring requirements which Skyline has for their conveyor bench. The attached sheet is a summary of the requirements as presented in the SCS plan in Volume A-2. These are the only evaluation requirements contained in the plan for that area. I hope that my previous memorandum which discussed the adequacy of the vegetation information the Division has for this site wasn't confused with the minimum requirements of this portion of the plan.

In the hearing, I asked Mr. Zobell about the evaluations that were done by the SCS and if they were only on the Plant Materials Center seedings (Experimental Trial #3). I stated in my previous memorandum to you that, despite Mr. Zobell's response that the SCS evaluated the entire area, I suspected that the SCS only looked at the Aberdeen Plant Materials Center seedings. The information provided by the SCS has substantiated my suspicions.

The letters from the SCS only discuss seedings although other practices, such as cutting aspen, transplanting shrubs, and fertilizing, were being employed. Specifically, the March 17, 1992, letter from George Cook says that he "checked the trial seeding that we planted on the planned belt line below the Coastal States Mine, with seeds provided by the Plant Materials Center in Idaho." The list of species included with the correspondence is a planting list for that experimental trial only. We still have no evaluation information for any of the other areas.

Summary of Evaluation Requirements for the  
Conveyor Bench at the Skyline Mines

**Practice #1 Fertilization of toe slopes, tops of slopes, and conveyor bed areas**

Evaluate in summer of 1990 to determine if application can be reduced, and revise revegetation plan to reflect evaluations.

**Practice #2 Drip Irrigation of Existing Shrubs**

No evaluation requirements.

**Practice #3 Shrub Planting**

**Practice #4 Irrigation System**

**Practice #5 Irrigate New Plants**

**Practice #6 Broadcasting Grass/Forb Seed**

(See page 3. Treatments are various areas to receive revegetation treatments. Treatment No. 1 is divided into two parts, and there are three other treatment areas.) Evaluation of study area and treatment #1 will result in revision of revegetation plan as needed to continue with treatment of area #1 and begin with area #2. Continuation of treatment #1 was scheduled for spring, 1991, and treatment #2 was scheduled to begin in spring, 1993.

**Experimental Trial #1 Fertilization of Existing Vegetation above Cut Slopes**

Evaluate after one year which should include understory (herbaceous) as a separate evaluation from overstory (aspen and shrubs). After one year, additional experimental design or continuation are to be determined. After third year, 1991, modify revegetation plan as determined from evaluations for remainder of areas above cut.

**Experimental Trial #2 Aspen Cutting/Suckering**

Evaluate in 1989 and 1990 and revise revegetation plan as needed.

**Experimental Trial #3 Plant Materials Trials**

Evaluations annually for 5 years by the Price Field Office and Skyline Mine.