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*file
c. B. G. M.*

July 13, 1988

TO: John Whitehead, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Brent Stettler, Reclamation Biologist *Brent*

RE: Review of 1987 Annual Reclamation Report, Plateau Mining Company, Starpoint Mine, ACT/007/006, Folder #6, Carbon County, Utah

In 1987, IME Consultants conducted test plot and revegetation monitoring in behalf of Plateau Mining Company (PMC). In the Conclusions section (page 10), it was suggested that supplemental fertilizer is counter-productive to reclamation of a perennial plant community. Regulatory objectives are to correct deficiencies which would otherwise inhibit perennial plant growth. UMC 817.25 requires fertilization only if soil tests indicate that fertilization is required. The amount, method of placement, or type of fertilizer must be modified to meet site-specific revegetation requirements. If fertilizer commitments (specified in the MRP, page 784-39) are found to produce poor results in the test plot program, then an amendment with justification may be filed.

Data from topsoil and subsoil stockpiles suggested that in many respects subsoil was superior to topsoil as a plant growth medium. It was stated that reclamation would be best achieved with either subsoil or mixed soils, rather than segregated topsoil. If future monitoring reinforces these findings, then PMC may wish to file an amendment, to change topsoil management and reclamation requirements. The Division's soil management objectives are to support the approved post-mining land use and to meet the revegetation requirements of UMC 817.111 to 817.117.

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