



0040

STATE OF UTAH  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
Oil, Gas & Mining

*file*  
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May 27, 1988

TO: John Whitehead, Permit Supervisor  
FROM: Brent Stettler, Reclamation Biologist *Brent*  
RE: Mid-term Review, Kaiser Coal Corp., Sunnyside Mine,  
ACT/007/007, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

UMC 817.103 Backfilling and Grading: Covering Coal and Acid-And  
Toxic-Forming Materials -(BAS)

(a) (3) The coarse refuse test plot was set up to evaluate revegetation success under several soil depths, amendments and seeding regimes. Its objective was to demonstrate that the disposal area could be successfully reclaimed without a covering of four feet of borrow material--for which the operator is currently bonded. All treatments failed to revegetate successfully, with the possible exception of the 48-inch covering of borrow material. Results were, however, not conclusive. The test plot design may have biased results. Other factors including lack of precipitation, soil amendments, and site drainage may have hampered success across all treatment. A significant savings in reclamation costs could be realized by the operator through continued research and demonstration of successful reclamation with less than four feet of soil depth.

The Whitmore Canyon test plot demonstrated the potential of slurry and Mancos shale as plant growth mediums. However, the cooler, wetter climate in Whitmore Canyon may not be representative of conditions occurring at or below the mine. If slurry or Mancos shale are intended for use as topsoil substitutes, the operator may benefit by repeating the Whitmore Canyon test plot at the mouth of the canyon.

BS/as  
1369R/36