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STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Oil, Gas & Mining

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May 23, 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 exception of the 48 inch covering of borrow material. The Division encourages Sunnyside Mine to renew its research efforts to achieve successful reclamation of coarse refuse.

The Whitmore Canyon test plot demonstrated the suitability of slurry and manchos 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 manchos 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
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