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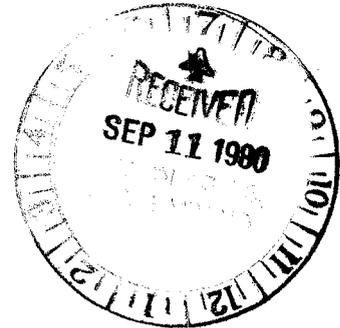
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United States Department of the Interior
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
Reclamation and Enforcement
BROOKS TOWERS
1020 15TH STREET
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

SEP 8 1980



Mr. Thomas J. Suchoski, Engineering Geologist
Utah Department of Natural Resources
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
1588 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84116

Dear Mr. Suchoski:

We appreciate having the opportunity to review the Eureka Energy Corporation's application for exploratory trenching. The application was reviewed by the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) staff and the following comments formulated:

1. We agree with the concerns presented in the Department's letter to the Eureka Energy Corporation of August 13, 1980.
2. In reference to UMC 776.12(a)(3)(iii) and 815.15(c) - "Reclamation would begin..."

The applicant states that it will partially backfill the exploratory trench with side cast materials which may include oxidized coal, coal fines, and broken coal. These coals encountered during trenching, intermixed with the overburden, do not constitute an adequate medium for revegetation. It is suggested that the coal be disposed of separately, i.e., returned to the trench first, then covered with overburden.

The applicant should use a native grass species which is adapted to the steep boulder strewn slopes to be disturbed, instead of Bulbous Bluegrass.

If you have any questions, please contact Jerry Cuzella of my staff (303-837-3773). Thank you again for the opportunity to review this application.

Sincerely,

DONALD A. CRANE