

September 25, 1987

FILE COPY

TO: Memo to File

FROM: James Leatherwood *JS*

Re: Soil Revegetation Test Plots, Wellington Coal Preparation Plant, Kaiser Steel Corporation, ACT/007/016, Carbon County, Utah

On September 15, 1987 Lynn Kunzler and James Leatherwood of the Division accompanied by Barry Grosley, Kaiser Steel Corporation representative, visited the Wellington Coal Preparation Plant experimental soil-revegetation plots. Vegetation Success looked good at the Surface Facilities test site, poor at the Coarse Refuse site and fair at the Fine and Coarse Slurry test site. Desirable vegetation occurred predominately within gouged depressions. Vegetative growth in the depressions occurred principally in the Surface Facility plot and somewhat in the fine and coarse slurry plots. The depression collects run-on water and retains precipitation thereby increasing the available water to the vegetation. Species composition and cover was surveyed by Mel Conrod prior to our site visit.

Surface Facilities Area

This site was separated into irrigated versus non-irrigated, no topsoil versus three inch topsoil depth, and two seed mixtures. There was no visual vegetative success difference between the zero and three inch topsoil redistribution depth treatments. The most successful growth was evident in the irrigated seed mix B test plot. The least successful plot was the non-irrigated seed mix A test plot. Test plot A contained some Halogeton. Other species such as winterfat and rabbitbrush were also evident in test plot A.

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Coarse Refuse Area

Kochia was the primary vegetation at the Coarse Refuse site. Desirable specie success was not evident. Some grasses did occur on the twelve inch topsoil, irrigated, non-organic amendment, coarse and non-coarse slurry cover test plots. Kochia was green and about six inches in height on the non-irrigated plots and dry and one to two feet high on the irrigated test plots. As previously mentioned in the 6/18/86 Inspection Report, attached Memo to File, the possible negligence in irrigation during the early spring of 1986 may have severely disrupted any potential success of desirable vegetative growth at the Coarse Refuse demonstration site.

Coarse Slurry Area

Kochia was the most dominant on the non-irrigated plots. The non-irrigated test plots also contained Indian Ricegrass, Squirreltail grass and Saltbrush within the gouged depressions. The irrigated plots had less Kochia and more shrubs, including winterfat and fourwing saltbrush in the six inch topsoil redistribution plots. The twelve inch topsoil, irrigated, plots contained primarily Kochia.

Fine Slurry Area

A visual inspection of these plots indicated that Kochia was again dominant at the expense of shrub success in that where the Kochia was more dense, fewer shrub seedlings were observed. Kochia more vigorous in the irrigated test plots. Wheat grasses were present in the gouged depressions of most test plots.

cc. L. Kunzler
S. Linner
B. Grosley

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