INA/015/002

0002

December 3, 1986

TO: Files

FROM: Kathryn M. Mutz, Reclamation Biologist KMM

RE: Maintenance Plan for J.B. King Mine Reclamation Project, INA/015/002, Emery County, Utah

The following summarizes Division consensus on treatment of rills, disposal of excavated soil and revegetation as discussed in O'Donnell's letter of November 19, 1986 and staff discussions of December 2.

1. Soil excavated during reconstruction of main and feeder ditches should be placed in the area immediately north of feeder ditch. Placement in this area will minimize disturbance of areas adjacent to the main ditch and below (to the east) the feeder ditch. Since the placement area is currently poorly vegetated and consists of some of the worst soil materials (Mancos shale) at the site, the additional soils may improve the area's chances of successful revegetation.

2. Since an intercept ditch will be required (See Munson memo), discussion of primary versus secondary rills in the O'Donnel letter is no longer applicable. While it is impractical to identify actual locality of rills to be hand backfilled, all rills nine inches deep or greater should be backfilled. Side hill contour furrows should be maintained by repairing breached furrows and hand cleaning those portions filled with sediment (letter enclosure, p. 5 #6).

3. Maintenance areas should be revegetated as planned. It is not essential to reseed this fall since most germination occurs after June/July summer showers. It would probably be more efficient, however, to seed immediately following grading since the equipment and personnel would already be on site.

   Fresh seed should be obtained unless seed left over from the project has been stored in a cool, dry place to maintain viability. Since the areas to be reseeded are small, a modified seed mix could be used. A modified mix should emphasize species which have established rapidly rather than the slower growing species (attached list with asterisked species). Even with a modified mix, diversity will be maintained by invasion from adjacent areas over time.

   The operator should make sure that the seeding rate is based on pounds of pure live seed per acre. Coal System's July 17, 1986 memo indicates that the area was initially seeded with over 22% inert material.

djh
Attachment
cc: T. Munson
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0528R/79