



State of Utah  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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April 8, 1997

TO: File

THRU: Joe Helfrich, Permit Supervisor *JH*

FROM: Susan M. White, Senior Reclamation Biologist *SMW*

RE: Success Standards, Mountain Coal Company, Huntington #4 Mine,  
ACT/015/004-97A, Folder #2, Emery County, Utah

### Synopsis

Mountain Coal Company submitted a permit amendment to change the vegetation success standards for the above referenced mine. The amendment was received March 20, 1997. The amendment is associated with the Divisions analysis of the Phase III Bond Release Application received in April, 1996. The amendment meets the requirements of the regulations and can be approved.

### REVEGETATION

**Regulatory Reference:** 30 CFR Sec. 785.18, 817.111, 817.113, 817.114, 817.116; R645-301-244, -301-353, -301-354, -301-355, -301-356, -302-280, -302-281, -302-282, -302-283, -302-284.

### Analysis:

#### Standards for Success.

The regulations, for areas previously disturbed by mining that were not reclaimed, are that the vegetative ground cover will be not less than the ground cover existing before redisturbance and will be adequate to control erosion and achieve the approved postmining land use. The Division's interpretation, at this time, is that continuously mined sites also apply to this standard.

The permit states (page 3-67a) that the reclamation will be considered successful if the upper and lower reclaimed areas are at least equal to or greater than the pinyon-juniper reference areas when cover, production, and shrub density are compared.

The reclaimed pumphouse and pond area disturbance is less than 1 acre in size. No reference area was established for this riparian area, instead a transect 100 feet above and 100 feet below the disturbance will be used as a cover comparison area. Density of woody species

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will meet a technical requirement of 2000 woody species per acre along the riparian corridor.

A diversity success standard is proposed (page 3-67b) for all of the reclaimed areas. The standard is based on vegetative cover and the comparison of the reclaimed area to the reference area or transect. Cover data is converted to relative cover and all species with a relative cover of greater than 5% will be tallied by life forms and compared to the relative cover of the undisturbed area.

**Findings:**

The amendment meets the requirements of this section of the regulations.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Amendment 97A, Success Standards may be approved and incorporated into the permit.

cc: Permit Binder  
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