

November 10, 1983

Memo to Coal File:

RE: Reference Areas Approval  
Natomas Coal Company  
Trail Mountain Mine  
ACT/015/009  
Folder Nos. 2, 4 and 7  
Emery County, Utah

On November 7, 1983, Division members Ev Hooper and Steve Cox toured the proposed reference areas at Natomas Coal Company's Trail Mountain Mine. One reference area is for the sagebrush-grass community and the other the riparian community. Natomas had requested the Division's approval of the areas to satisfy permitting requirements.

Both reference areas are located on the southern edge of the permit area and will remain undisturbed for the life of the mine. The areas were determined to be representative of the vegetation which occurred on the disturbed areas. Natomas was given tentative approval and requested to permanently mark the areas, map them and provide productivity statements for each. Approval will be final when this information is received.

While on-site, we were shown the area proposed for revegetation test plots. It is located north of the main office in the borrow area. Natomas plans to backfill the hihgwall with some leftover borrow material to simulate actual reclamation of the mine site. Several revegetation treatments will be used. The borrow material has been sampled and is currently being tested to see if it is comparable to soil samples taken from the pad. When test plots plans are finalized, they will be submitted.

STEVE COX   
RECLAMATION BIOLOGIST

SC/btb

cc: P. Grubaugh-Littig, DOGM  
E. Hooper, DOGM

Statistics:

Vehicle: *None*  
Per Diem: *None*  
Grant: A & E