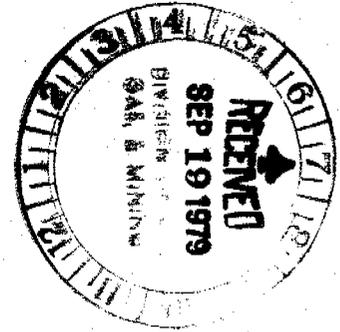


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File  
Deer Creek



United States Department of the Interior  
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING  
Reclamation and Enforcement  
POST OFFICE BLDG. RM. 270  
1823 STOUT STREET  
DENVER, COLORADO 80202



14 SEP 1979

Mr. K. Michael Thompson  
Engineering Geologist  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and  
Mining  
1588 West North Temple  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Dear Mike:

We wish to sincerely thank you, and the others of your staff who provided such expert guidance during our recent field visit to mines in Utah. We gained a great deal of information and feel the time was well spent. The success of the trip was due, in large part, to the arrangements you made and your knowledge of the sites.

We wish to also convey our appreciation to Tom for the time he spent with us and to Ron for making his staff available. We recognize that the time you spent represents a major diversion from the work immediately at hand.

As the opportunity becomes available, please also convey our appreciation to the Company representatives who gave freely of their time to show us around.

Item of possible interest is enclosed.

Sincerely,

  
John E. Hardaway  
Chief, Division of Technical  
Analysis and Research

Enclosures

cc: Ron Daniels/Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining  
Tom Suchoski/Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining

Situation

A "dead" coal storage pile is located a few hundred feet from the active coal storage pile. The coal is supplied from an underground mine via conveyor belt. The belt is perhaps 5 miles long. The active pile feeds a power plant.

Coal is apparently conveyed to the "dead" storage by front end loader and would (apparently) have to be loaded with a front end loader to get back into the plant feed system.

No coal erosion controls are evident. Coal has been washed from the pile across gullied slopes and roads into a diversion ditch around the large power substation. The drainage leads to a perennial stream. No coal was found at the discharge point to the stream.

Question

What is the jurisdiction under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act?

Answer

OSM has not been able to assume authority over such operations under P.L. 95-87 in the past. (Alabama Power Company decided no jurisdiction as a result of advice from John Williams, Solicitor, Knoxville.)

quent years. (See Section 784.13(b)(5)(ii) for specific information on shrubs.)

Seed was applied primarily by hydroseeding but also by broadcasting, with the seed subsequently being covered before mulching.

It was recognized early that moisture retention would be critical to a successful revegetation program. Proper mulching will help prevent surface erosion and act as a moisture retaining medium. In order to ascertain which of the various types of mulching materials would be most suitable to the Orchard Valley Mine Reclamation Program a number of natural and commercially available mulches were tested. The following mulches and erosion control materials were utilized.

- a) Excelsior erosion control blanket
- b) Hold-gro erosion control system
- c) Mulch net
- d) Erosion net
- e) Plastic net
- f) Jute mesh
- g) Hay
- h) Wood cellulose fiber (hydromulch)
- i) Petroset SB soil binder (hydromulch)
- j) Asphalt emulsion

To date it appears that the excelsior blanket mulch has been the most effective in terms of reducing erosion and promoting revegetation, especially on areas of relatively steep slopes.

II Reclamation of Water Diversion Ditches, Sediment Retention Ponds and Waste Disposal Area.

The water diversion ditches and sediment retention ponds have been installed and revegetation will be done in the Fall of 1979.

*Colorado Westmoreland  
Orchard Valley Mine*