March 5, 1985

TO: File

FROM: Steve Cox, Reclamation Biologist SC

RE: On-Site Technical Visit, Co-op Mining Company, Bear Creek Canyon Mine, ACT/015/025, #7, Emery County, Utah

On February 27, 1985, Tom Munson, Pam Grubaugh-Littig, Rick Smith and Steve Cox visited Co-op Mining Company's Bear Creek Canyon Mine. The purpose of the visit was to familiarize the staff with the site prior to writing the Technical Analysis of the Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP) submitted by Co-op.

Areas of particular concern that were visited included the scalehouse area, the upper storage pad, the baseball diamond and areas adjacent to Bear Creek.

While on the upper storage pad, it as observed that a pad (approximately 100 ft^2) had been bulldozed in the drainage below the upper substation and explosive storage area. It appeared that the disturbance was less than a week old. Neither the technical staff nor the inspection staff knows of a revision which has been submitted for this area.

It was apparent from our visit that there are numerous differences between the maps and narrative in the MRP and the actual on-site conditions. In addition, much of the area which extends from the scahlehouse to the blue entrance gate and includes a topsoil stockpile, trailers, chicken coops, etc., has not been mapped or described at all. It is suggested that a more thorough technical visit to document actual on-site conditions be conducted before proceeding with the Technical Analysis.

As part of the site visit, the vegetation reference areas in Trail Canyon were observed. The pinyon-juniper reference area appeared to be on a much steeper slope than much of the mine disturbance. Therefore, it may have a significantly different species composition than the original mine site vegetation. Also, the riparian reference area could possibly be enlarged. This will be examined in more detail during the next technical visit.

While in Trail Canyon, we observed that a large piece of equipment was being constructed. It appeared that it could be used as part of the Bear Canyon coal loadout. If so, there is a question of whether this would be considered a mine-related activity being conducted off the permit area. This should be investigated further.

btb
cc: Mary Boucek
Pam Grubaugh-Littig
Ev Hooper
Dave Lof
Tom Munson
Rick Smith
John Whitehead
8878R-3-4