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ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PROGRAM FOR 1979

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ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PROGRAM
FOR 1979
SUFCO MINE - SALINA, UTAH

#2

For

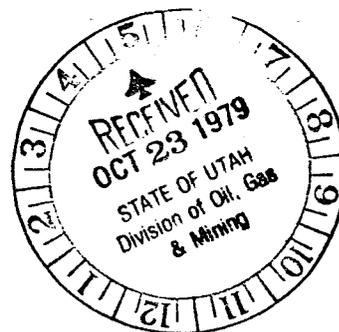
LOREN A. WILLIAMS
COASTAL STATES ENERGY CORP.
COASTAL TOWER
NINE GREENWAY PLAZA
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77046

By

MAXWELL K. BOTZ
HYDROMETRICS
1300 Cedar St.
Helena, Montana 59601

and

WESTECH
2301 Colonial Drive
Helena, Montana 59601



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ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PROGRAM
FOR 1979
SUFCO MINE - SALINA, UTAH

It is planned to conduct water resources, wildlife, vegetation and other environmental monitoring in the vicinity of the SUFCo #1 mine near Salina, Utah. This provides the third year of baseline environmental assessment and impact evaluation from the SUFCo #1 mine area. The 1979 program is designed to meet environmental requirements of the new OSM Permanent Regulatory Program for underground coal mines. The State of Utah currently is developing the required regulatory authority to administer this mining program. This 1979 monitoring program also will satisfy the U.S. Forest Service environmental requirements for underground coal mines.

WATER RESOURCES

The 1979 monitoring plan will include evaluation of surface water, groundwater and water quality. The snowpack is about 125% of normal and peak run-off should occur in June. To meet the water resources requirements of regulatory agencies, the following will be completed in 1979.

1. Instrument and activate streamflow recording stations installed in 1978. This will include calibration of the combination weir on the N. Fork of Quitchupah Creek.
2. Conduct a well and spring survey to determine baseline conditions and assess subsidence impacts. In addition to flow measurement, a photo record will be started for each station.
3. Measure groundwater levels in all monitoring wells and coordinate with Coastal States Energy Company geologist in development of additional monitoring sites. This will be in conjunction with the summer exploration drilling program.

4. Conduct examination of subsidence areas to determine possible hydrological impacts.
5. Evaluate mine water inflow information and pumping records.
6. Obtain water quality samples in July and early fall. The July samples will be for a few selected constituents and the fall samples will be tested for a complete set of parameters. This will allow comparison with 1978 water quality data. As required by OSM, results of water quality analysis will be submitted to OSM within 60 days of sampling. This will include a description of analytical quality control used in the field and laboratory.
7. Assessment of surface water drainage facilities and treatment of run-off from disturbed areas.

VEGETATION

Since vegetation monitoring in 1977 and 1978, the Office of Surface Mining has promulgated rules pertaining to underground coal mining. These rules contain specific references to vegetation monitoring. This 1979 program attempts to incorporate provisions of the new Permanent Regulatory Program in addition to requirements of the U.S. Forest Service. Monitoring for the 1979 field season has been separated into tasks to identify important components of vegetation monitoring.

Task 1. Establish quantitative transects to identify pre-disturbance conditions over proposed subsidence panels

Transect locations will be cooperatively selected by SUFCo, U.S. Forest Service and Westech. Specific methods to be used should also be agreed upon by the three parties. Several locations should be selected and sampled to provide analysis of different vegetative community types.

Task 2. Establish reference areas or obtain USDA or USDI data for eventual analysis of reclamation success

Federal rules require the collection of data to be used as a comparison of revegetation success prior to bond release. A company may use data from reference areas or data from USDA or USDI agencies, if it is available. If existing information on ground cover and productivity is available from the federal agencies it should be assembled and summarized for later use. If this information is not available, reference areas should be selected and sampled for various vegetation types that

are to be disturbed. A detailed study plan should be prepared to show how and when the reference areas will be sampled. Existing Forest Service transects (off-site) could fulfill part of this requirement.

Task 3. Long range study plan design for assessment of subsidence impacts

After the baseline data for Task 1 has been summarized a long range study plan should be developed to detail methodology and timing for analysis of impacts due to subsidence. Responsibilities for data collection should be worked out between SUFCo and the Forest Service.

WILDLIFE

The wildlife survey will be a continuation of the wildlife surveys performed in 1977. It will include vehicle traverses and pedestrian surveys. The objective will be to expand the species list and to map wildlife sitings. For a more quantitative estimate, a continuation of the pellet group counts will be made including separation by age class, and vegetation type. These data will provide a trend in wildlife in the area. Methods used will be those listed in WESTECH's previous assessments.

AIR AND SOILS

To answer OSM concerns on air quality, a dust control plan will be developed for the mine area and the air quality monitoring program will be described.

A soils map will be prepared for the disturbed mine area (exclusive of subsidence areas). This will include a program to reclaim the final tipple site.