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STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES & ENERGY
Wildlife Resources

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Scott M. Matheson, Governor
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October 24, 1983

RECEIVED
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DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

Mr. James W. Smith, Jr.
Coordinator of Mined Land Development
Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
4241 State Office Building
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

ATTENTION: Sue Linner

Dear Mr. Smith,

We appreciate the opportunity to review the revised vegetation study and revegetation plan submitted by Southern Utah Fuel Company.

My first impression of the revision is that a minimum of effort was made to complete the shortcomings that were outlined in Sue Linner's letters dated September 13,1983. I hope the actual reclamation process is not done in this same tone.

The seed mixture for the portal yard includes a fair diversity of plant species; however, it should be improved with the inclusion of 2-3 additional species of forbes, e.g., goldeneye, Pacific aster or penstemon (1-2 lbs. per acre). Also, it seems that the planting rate for both rabbitbrush and sagebrush is high; one half to one pound of seed per acre would be adequate. Furthermore, rabbitbrush could be eliminated from the list of seedlings and replaced by one or two deciduous species, e.g., serviceberry, golden currant or sumac.

The amount of seedlings to be planted seems to be adequate; however, the proportion of each species should be defined. A possible mixture would include 40% bitterbrush, and 15% each of serviceberry, golden current, juniper and pinyon pine, otherwise an undesirable proportion may occur.

It should be remembered that the chances of successful reclamation generally increases if a larger number of plant taxa are included.

The actual planting of seeds and seedlings should be considered in all factors which could determine success or failure, i.e., soil moisture, species competition, improper planting, wildlife depredation, distribution, seedbed preparation, soil erosion, etc. Are we to assume that all such factors will be considered? I don't remember but, possibly these items were discussed in the M & RP.

I hope these comments have been constructive. Thanks again.

Sincerely,

F. Clair Jensen
Regional Supervisor

Board/Warren T. Harward, Chairman • L. S. Skaggs • Lewis C. Smith • Jack T. World • Roy L. Young

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