

The Land Reclamation Report

Trees are total topic at reclamation meeting

About 140 people interested in reclaiming surface mines met in Lexington, Kentucky, to discuss the importance of trees in this process.

Three-member panels consisting of state forestry officials, state reclamation experts, and mining industry representatives from 15 eastern states reviewed efforts from the '30's to the present on how to establish trees on surface mined lands. The "Trees for Reclamation" meeting, sponsored by the Interstate Mining Compact Commission and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, was the first to stress strictly the use of trees in reclamation.

Speakers presented thirty-minute papers on topics such as reforestation

for wildlife, for aesthetics, and through direct seeding. Participants came from the Office of Surface Mining, the Tennessee Valley Authority, various universities, and several mining companies.

"There was a tremendous interest in what was going on," said Willie Curtis, project leader of the surface mined area reclamation research project for the USDA Forest Service. Much discussion continued long after the formal presentations ended.

Missouri gob piles to be reclaimed soon

Large gob piles causing stream pollution and danger to nearby residents at an abandoned coal refuse site east of Huntsville, MO, will be reclaimed at a

cost of \$1.5 million.

Surface water runoff from the site has polluted Sugar Creek, and the refuse site poses dangers to nearby residents.

The project will be financed from the Abandoned Mined Land Fund, administered by the Department of Interior's Office of Surface Mining under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. The work will be done under a cooperative agreement with the State of Missouri's Department of Natural Resources.

Andrus consents on 12 Pennsylvania projects

Secretary of the Interior Cecil Andrus has approved 12 abandoned coal mine land reclamation projects in Pennsylvania at an estimated cost of more than \$6.5 million.

The projects will be funded from the Federal share of fees collected from active coal mining operations by the Interior's Office of Surface Mining (OSM). The work will be supervised by Interior's Bureau of Mines under the cooperative arrangement with OSM.

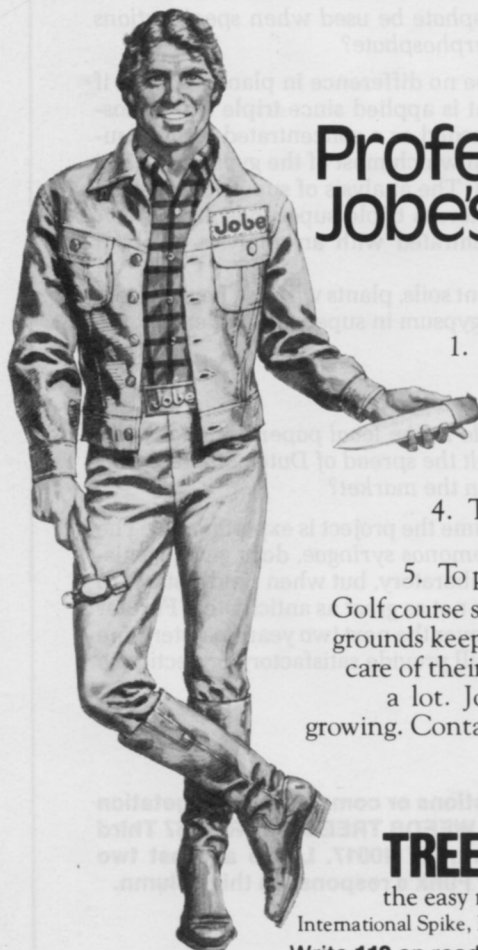
OSM Director Walter Heine said that the projects include the control of underground coal mine fires, sealing of openings to underground mines, and major projects to control subsidence.

USDA dedicates soil, water research facility

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has dedicated a new Appalachian Soil and Water Conservation Research Laboratory, located in Beckley, WV.

Scientists at the laboratory, which will be administered by USDA's Science and Education Administration, will conduct research on a variety of problems associated with reclamation of strip-mined and other disturbed land and hill-land agriculture.

The new facilities include office space for 20 scientists, eight main laboratories and three special laboratories, nine greenhouse units, several environmental growth chambers, and a shop-storage complex.



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Continues on page 46

Sec. Andrus approves LA. mining program

Secretary of the Interior Cecil D. Andrus has fully approved the Louisiana permanent regulatory program for surface coal mining and reclamation which will allow the state to assume primary responsibility on its non-federal lands.

In congratulating Louisiana Governor David Treen and state regulatory officials, Andrus said, "I appreciate Louisiana's expeditious and very responsive resubmission. I partially approved the Louisiana program on August 28, and the state resubmitted its revised program immediately."

Bureau prints summary of environmental data

The Bureau of Mines has released the first project-by-project summary of environmental research underway—from work on ways to reclaim strip-mined land to evaluations of the hazards of oil shale mining.

The Bureau has funded \$21 million

in 1980 for research on identifying and controlling the environmental problems associated with mining and mineral processing. The new publication, which briefly describes all 216 of the Bureau's current environmental projects, is intended to provide those interested with general information about the Bureau's environmental research efforts.

The projects are organized in the publication under two broad subprograms—"environmental assessment,"

aimed at identifying and measuring present and future environmental hazards in the mining industry; and "control technology," aimed at developing methods and equipment to prevent, control, or repair environmental damage.

A copy of Information Circular 8827 (specify title and number) can be obtained without charge from: Publications Distribution, Bureau of Mines, 4800 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213, 412/621-4500, ext. 342.

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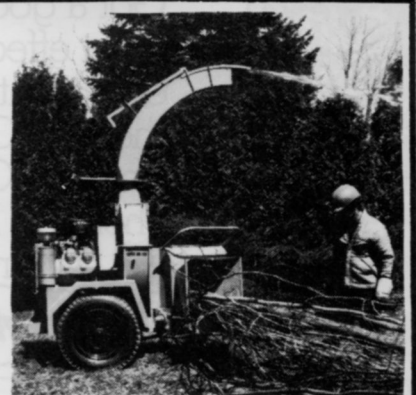
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