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And More: Edger, Catcher/Compactor, and Trailer optional. Factory-trained service, genuine EXCEL parts from your EXCEL Distributor. Write for his name and free literature. Or call toll-free (800) 835-3260. In Kansas or Canada call collect (316) 327-4911. EXCEL HUSTLER Turf & Grounds Equipment is built right by Excel Industries, Inc., Box 727, Hesston, Kansas 67062.

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Turf & Grounds Equipment

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The Land Reclamation Report

Texas gets approval of state reclamation plan

Texas has become the first coal mining state to receive approval of its reclamation plan from the Interior Department's Office of Surface Mining OSM.

Approval of the state plan submitted by the Texas Railroad Commission will entitle Texas to request up to \$1.7 million, said OSM Director Walter N. Heine. This is 50 percent of all reclamation fees collected from active coal mining operations in the state since Oct. 1, 1977, when the fee system went into effect, through Sept. 30, 1979. Texas can receive the funds after OSM has reviewed and approved the specific projects proposed.

"The \$1.7 million now available was reserved for reclaiming abandoned coal mine lands in Texas until the state received approval of both its coal mining regulatory program and its reclamation plan," said Heine. "These conditions are contained in the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977."

The TRC reclamation plan for abandoned coal lands extends through 1982, with total expenditures expected to total more than \$5.5 million in 1981 and 1982. When all abandoned coal lands are reclaimed, under a priority system in the Act, the TRC hopes to use reclamation funds for other non-coal related mining reclamation purposes.

Ranking study will help pick mining sites

A method of selecting sites for coal surface mines in areas where protection of environmental and cultural values is especially important will be developed for the Montana Crow Indian Reservation.

The Bureau of Mines has awarded a \$70,000 contract to Harvard University to rank the resources—economic, like coal and water, cultural, and environmental—of the area. The Bureau feels that such a plan would be widely useful to the mining industry in areas where sensitive factors should be considered before mining.

The 69,000-acre coal reserve area of the reservation has an estimated six bil-

lion tons of coal reserves. It is also a breeding ground for prairie dogs, deer, elk, hawks, golden eagles, and other wildlife; and contains tribal burial grounds, ruins, and rock art sites.

Coal production will reach 1.25 billion tons

Domestic coal production should increase by 62 percent over the next 10 years, according to a study by the Economics Committee of the National Coal Association.

The U.S. coal industry, which currently is able to produce at least 100 million tons more each year than is being used, will see production reach 1.25 billion tons annually by 1990 compared to a projected rise to 1.17 billion tons of consumption.

Major factors cited by the Economics Committee as affecting future growth include increased demand for electricity and steel, availability of nuclear power, supply and price of oil and natural gas, impact of environmental regulations, growth in U.S. coal's export market, and the rate of development of coal-based synthetic fuels.

Report shows advances in mine reclamation

Improvements in seven areas of surface coal-mine reclamation—from topsoil rock removal to the transplanting of vegetation—are summarized in a report of the Bureau of Mines.

The 80-page report consists of seven articles on recent advances in reclamation techniques, machinery, and research. It is illustrated with photos, tables, and diagrams.

Single copies of Information Circular 8823, "Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Equipment and Techniques, Proceedings: Bureau of Mines Technology Transfer Seminars, Evansville, Ind., June 3, 1980, and Denver, Colo., June 5, 1980," can be obtained free from: Publications Distribution, Bureau of Mines, 4800 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213, 412/621-4500, ext. 342. Requests should specify the complete title and number of the report.