

ALBERTA ENERGY COMPANY

Inter-Office Correspondence

Date: 1982-08-27

To: H. Barrett

Location: Redcliff

From: G. Brown

Location: Calgary

Subject: Reclamation Seed Mixes

File:

The attached are copies of correspondence in respect to seed mixes to be used on the Suffield Block. SEAC have confirmed that the policy outline is current and should be in effect.

In future, only native mixes will be used in reclamation of the Suffield Block; furthermore, in line with SEAC's desire for reinvasion by native species, there will be no seeding of any kind unless directed by SEAC. In this regard, reclamation will be closely monitored and where there is no progress or there is likely to be further damage by erosion or blowout, seeding with native grasses will be requested from SEAC. The native seed used in such cases shall be as recommended by Smoliak in the attached letter, i.e. Slender Wheat Grass, Western Wheat Grass and Northern or Thickspike Wheat Grass, all at five pounds per acre and seeded as a mixture. SEAC are examining the native seed mixture further and it is possible the above mixture will be changed; therefore, it should not be stockpiled.

Original signed by

G. G. Brown

GGB/sdg
Attach.

cc: G. Cormack
J. Mysyk

Info: SEAC Members
L. Bellows
R. Edwards
J. King
D. Harrington

June 27, 1977

Mr. G. Morgan
Alberta Energy Company Ltd.
1000 - Aquitaine Tower
540 - 5th Avenue, S.W.
Calgary, Alberta
T2P 0M3

Dear Mr. Morgan:

This is to advise that members of SEAC recently toured the Suffield base with Mr. S. Smoliak, Research Scientist with the Lethbridge Research Station who is a recognized authority on grasses of the mixed grass prairie region of Alberta. Mr. Smoliak was asked to provide advice regarding the impact of gas operations on the Mixed Grassland area. He was also asked to recommend seed mixtures suitable for the area which would conform with provision #4 of Development & Reclamation approval #23, which states "Revegetation of disturbed areas shall be carried out using only seed from native grasses".

Mr. Smoliak's recommendations are attached and have been approved by SEAC for use on the Suffield Block as indicated in his letter.

Yours truly,

Original signed by

V.E. Bohme
SEAC
:rm

cc: D.J. Harrington
C.R. Surrendi
B.C. McNeely
B. McFarlane

June 17, 1977

Your file *Voire référence*

Our file *Notre référence*

Mr. H. W. Thiessen
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Coordination Services
Alberta Environment
Oxbridge Place, 9820 - 106 Street
EDMONTON, Alberta
T5K 2J6

Dear Henry:

The revegetation of disturbed areas is of interest to us as we are much concerned with the production of forage for use by livestock. Most of the techniques used in revegetation or regrassing disturbed or cultivated areas have been investigated and the desirable forages have been tested. Some of this information is included in the publications "Seeding Pastures in Alberta" (Agdex No. 130/22), and "Hay and Pasture Crops for Alberta" (Agdex No. 120/20-1), copies of which are enclosed.

Our recommendations for revegetating disturbed areas in the Brown Soil zone is the use of crested wheatgrass or Russian wildrye. Crested wheatgrass is especially useful on sandy soils and is noted for its ease of establishment. It is long-lived; stands at Manyberries seeded in 1928 and later still outproduce adjacent native range vegetation.

We, therefore, recommend the use of crested wheatgrass at 10 to 20 pounds per acre (depending on method of seeding) for seeding on disturbed wellsites and pipeline right-of-ways on the Suffield Block. However, if native species are essential for such revegetation, we recommend the use of slender wheatgrass, western wheatgrass (Agropyron smithii), and northern or thickspike wheatgrass (Agropyron dasystachyum), each at 5 pounds per acre seeded as a mixture. The slender wheatgrass establishes very readily and provides a cover for the first two or three years while the other two wheatgrasses are developing and it eventually goes out of the stand. Seed of the western and northern (Montana people call it thickspike) wheatgrass may be obtained at some of the local seed dealers, K. C. Long Seeds, Cardston, Alberta, or from Montana Seeds Incorporated, Conrad, Montana.

Mr. H. W. Thiessen - 2

Early spring seeding is best, although fall seedings have been very successful.

I was very glad to have the opportunity to view the wellhead sites and pipeline construction areas on the Suffield area.

Yours truly,

S. Smoliak
Research Scientist
Dryland Pastures

SS:pd
Encs.