

ANALYSIS FOR TOXICITY

In fulfillment of SCCC Reclamation Plan Commitment and OSM Special Stipulation No. 3, SCCC initiated a monitoring program to analyze copper and molybdenum concentrations in vegetation from reclaimed areas. The objective of the monitoring was to evaluate whether vegetation on reclaimed areas might exhibit imbalances of Cu:Mo ratios, which would be of concern due to potential adverse effects, specifically molybdenosis, in grazing livestock.

This concern proved to be unfounded. Four years of Cu/Mo analyses indicate that, overall, Cu:Mo ratios do not have the potential to impair livestock grazing in revegetated areas. Therefore, with the approval of MDEQ in June 1997 (MR 96-12-16), SCCC discontinued the sampling of Cu/Mo concentrations in revegetation. However, SCCC will continue to analyze Mo concentrations in regraded spoils insofar as that might lead to an imbalance in plants. If spoils containing excessive Mo are identified, SCCC will develop a remediation plan in consultation with the Department. Such plan may include covering the spoils with an adequate thickness of nontoxic material, or again monitoring Cu/Mo in the associated revegetation.