



Western Interstate Energy Board/ WINB

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Douglas C. Larson
Executive Director

April 12, 2006

Mr. Al Klein, Regional Director
P.O. Box 46667
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80201-6667

Dear Al:

The Reclamation Committee of the Western Interstate Energy Board has reviewed the recommendations of the National Research Council contained in their report *Managing Coal Combustion Residues in Mines*. A major recommendation is the promulgation of new federal rules to ensure a minimum level of environmental protection across the country. We believe there are adequate provisions in the western states' coal and solid waste programs. If, however, new regulations are pursued to address the concerns raised in the report, then we strongly support the new regulations be promulgated through SMCRA (OSM) and not EPA. We also support flexibility in any new rules to avoid burdensome prescriptive requirements that might not be necessary in arid Western environments.

We are willing to work with OSM to ensure any new regulations are under SMCRA and to assist in the development of those regulations. We are interested in your thoughts on this issue and how we may be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Chancellor
Chairman

cc: WIEB Reclamation Committee