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Mining Engineering, Vol. 31, 1979

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quired for these facilities. Occupational safety and health addresses the question of plant exposure to employees to the industrial atmosphere, essentially combining the concerns of air and water pollutants, with the addition of physical hazards and noise control. For smelters this means limiting the inplant SO₂ levels, dust, and heat exposure; for hydrometallurgical plants it means contain-

Leases by 1980

In responding to President Carter's order to end the federal coal management paralysis "in a manner that would avert the detrimental consequences associated with coal produced in years past," Interior Secretary Cecil D. Andrus outlined a program that could reopen federal lands in the western US to competitive coal leasing by

Ashland said its withdrawal was prompted by recent economic studies of the project which indicated increased capital and operating expenses that could reduce profitability to unacceptable levels in view of technical, political and regulatory uncertainties.

In terms of its commitment to the development of alternate energy sources, Ashland will continue to actively pursue a

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agreement to permit assessment work on the claims at least through August 1979. The claims are located in Carbon, Fremont, Sublette, and Sweetwater counties.

Nerco Inc., the wholly-owned subsidiary of Pacific Power and Light, has elected to extend its option to participate in the Sundance uranium project covering 450 km² (175 sq miles) in northeastern Wyoming.

1978, according to **Kerr-McGee Coal Corp.** Shipments began in February 1978 and reached the million-ton mark in October. Most of the coal was delivered under contract to Houston Lighting and Power Co. According to James Randolph, president of **Kerr-McGee Coal**, shipments from the Jacobs Ranch mine should reach the two-million-ton mark by the end of January 1979.

Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corp. has begun stripping overburden at its new Section 3-10 pit near Glenrock, Wyo. The new mine is 8 km (5 miles) northeast of the Section 28-33 surface mine which is producing 1000 tpd (1200 stpd) of ore from a deposit about 37 m (120 ft) below the surface. Public Service Electric and Gas

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At least 10 major companies were

moly on the Miners Queen property

nounced its intention to develop an

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exploring the Tertiary sedimentary sequences and felsic intrusives of the Pend Oreille Valley. Milne reported that Conoco, BurWest, Inspiration Development, Wold Nuclear, Kerr-McGee, Minatome, Resource Associates of Alaska, and Denison are active in various stages of reconnais-

in the Silver Star Mountains. Duval also investigated a low-grade copper prospect north of St. Helens.

Exxon explored the Broken Ridge copper-moly prospect in the Silver Creek area of Snohomish County, and Bethex investigated a copper prospect on Basalt Peak in Chelan County.

extensive ore deposit in the Copper Mountain area, 160 km (100 miles) west of Casper. The deposit is a low-grade dissemination of uranium minerals in Precambrian granite and represents the first new "hard rock" uranium discovery to be developed in years. RMEC, along with its joint ven-

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