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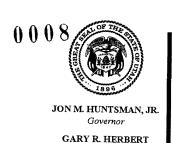
State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

JOHN R. BAZA
Division Director

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Governor

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Lieutenant Governor

March 24, 2010

Mr. James Fulton, Chief Denver Field Division
Office of Surface Mining
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, Colorado 80202-3050

Subject: 2010 Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Awards, Nomination of
Energy West Mining Company for National Award at the Des-Bee-Dove Mine

Dear Mr. Fulton:

The Division received the enclosed nomination submitted by Energy West Mining
Company for a Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Award under the National Award category.
We have screened the nomination and have determined that it should go forward as an excellent
candidate for a National Award.

Reclamation of the Des-Bee-Dove mine site presented a variety of challenges not the
least of which included identifying adequate soil resources on this historic site, which had been
disturbed many years prior to SMCRA and before there were any requirements to salvage
topsoil. This project involved the development of a soil management plan through auger drilling
and the use of trenches in strategic locations, which identified soil resources as well as the
bedrock interfaces so that a proper channel design could be developed. Because the mine was
located in a very narrow and steep canyon, slope stability was a concern. The Company was
able to achieve AOC and establish a diverse and effective groundcover utilizing soil resources
recovered during the reclamation process. This project is a great example of Title V reclamation
work completed on a site that was initially disturbed many years prior to the enactment of
SMCRA. Energy West Mining Company has done an excellent job in reclaiming a harsh and
difficult site to reclaim.

The Division has reviewed this project and recommends it for a 2010 National Award.

Sincerely,

John R. Baza
Director

Enclosure
cc: Ken Fleck, Energy West
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