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# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Norman H. Bangerter  
Governor

Dee C. Hansen  
Executive Director

Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D.  
Division Director

355 West North Temple  
3 Triad Center, Suite 350  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203  
801-538-5340

October 21, 1992

Mr. Richard H. Allison, Jr.  
Project Manager  
AMAX Coal Company, Belle Ayr Mine  
2273 Bishop Road  
P. O. Box 3005  
Gillette, Wyoming 82717-3005

Dear Mr. Allison:

Re: Deficiencies in Land Use Chapter, AMAX Coal Company, Castle Gate Mine,  
ACT/007/004, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

The Division has completed a review of your Land Use Chapter, received on August 24, 1992. There appear to be a number of deficiencies with your plan. Please review the enclosed technical memo which discusses those deficiencies.

Correction of the deficiencies should coincide with your submittal of information for all remaining areas which is scheduled for December 1, 1992.

Please call me or Paul Baker if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daron R. Haddock".

Daron R. Haddock  
Permit Supervisor

cc: P. Baker  
LANDDEFLAMA



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TO: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Paul Baker, Reclamation Biologist *PRB*

DATE: October 19, 1992

RE: Castle Gate Chapter 4, Land Use, Amax Coal Co., Castle Gate Mine, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

## SUMMARY

Amax has submitted a revised land use chapter. No changes in postmining land use from those contained in the current plan are proposed. Deficiencies include the need for comments from land owners and managers concerning the postmining land use, a description of the land use classifications under local law, and information on previous mining activity.

Chapter 5 contains historical and cultural resource information. Because no new disturbance is proposed, this chapter was not reviewed.

Because R645-301-400 contains the air quality regulations, Chapter 11 was reviewed. Although Amax has an air quality approval order, the plan does not give any indication of coordination and compliance efforts that have been undertaken with the Division of Air Quality.

## ANALYSIS

**R645-301-411 Land Use Environmental Description**

### Proposal:

Land use within and adjacent to the mine plan area consists of non-intensive, non-developed uses, such as grazing, recreation, watershed, wildlife, and small surface developments to support underground coal mining. Active surface disturbance within the mine plan area as a result of mining operations will probably not exceed 150 acres at any time during the projected life of the operations. This is 0.005 percent of the permit area.

The cultural resources information is contained in Chapter 5 and was not revised or reviewed.

Most of the permit area requiring reclamation is previously mined. Land uses preceding mining were sporadic grazing and wildlife use.

**Analysis:**

This submittal is labelled "Chapter III Land Use". The land use chapter of the existing plan is Chapter 4. To fit into the current plan, this chapter should be labelled as Chapter 4 or else other instructions on insertion need to be received.

The existing Chapter 4 states that timber production may be one of the land uses at mid- and higher elevations. If this is a land use within the permit area, it needs to be identified.

According to the acreage figures in the plan, 150 acres is about 1.0% of the total permit area rather than 0.005%. The statement on page 3 that 150 acres is only 0.005% of the permit area should either be corrected or deleted.

R645-301-411.130 requires that the plan contains a description of the existing land use classifications under local law, if any, of the proposed permit and adjacent areas. This description is not contained in the amendment.

R645-301-411.200 requires a description of previous mining activity within the permit area, including the type of mining method used, the coal seams mined, the extent of coal or other mineral removed, and the approximate dates of past mining. Although most of the permit area requiring reclamation is identified as having been previously mined, the other information required by this regulation is not included.

**Deficiencies:**

1. This amendment needs to be identified with a Chapter designation or other instructions that allow it to be inserted into the current plan.
2. If timber production is a land use within the permit area, this use must be identified in the plan.
3. The statement on page 3 that 150 acres is only 0.005% of the permit area should either be corrected or deleted.
4. The plan must contain a description of the existing land use classifications

under local law, if any, of the permit and adjacent areas.

5. The plan must include a description of previous mining activity in compliance with R645-301-411.200.

## **R645-301-412**

### **Land Use Reclamation Plan**

#### **Proposal:**

The postmining land uses will be grazing and wildlife. These uses will be developed in accordance with the revegetation plans of this chapter.

No alternative land uses are planned. The land use is consistent with all known surface owner and state plans and programs.

Page 5 states that surface owner comments and consents are presented in Appendix A of this chapter. Appendix A contains a sheet stating that comments are forthcoming.

#### **Analysis:**

The plan needs to contain comments from legal and equitable owners of record of the surface of the permit area concerning the proposed postmining land and from local and Utah government agencies which would have to initiate, implement, approve, or authorize the proposed uses of the land following reclamation.

#### **Deficiencies:**

1. The plan needs to contain comments from legal and equitable owners of record of the surface of the permit area concerning the proposed postmining land and from local and Utah government agencies which would have to initiate, implement, approve, or authorize the proposed uses of the land following reclamation.

## **R645-301-420**

### **Air Quality**

#### **Proposal:**

Chapter 11 lists measures to be used to control fugitive dust and other emissions.

**Analysis:**

This regulation requires that the permit contain a description of coordination and compliance efforts which have been undertaken with the Utah Bureau (Division) of Air Quality. Although Amax does have an air quality approval order dated November 9, 1987, the plan does not give any indication that coordination has been undertaken with the Division of Air Quality or that an air quality approval order is in place. The approval order had to be found in research by the Division at the Division of Air Quality. It is recommended that a copy of this approval order be included in the plan.

In my March 13, 1992, review of the reclamation plan for Hardscrabble Canyon, some of the requirements of the approval order and of other regulations which might be applicable to future operations were stated. These are:

1. All unpaved roads and ***other unpaved operational areas*** (emphasis added) in use shall be water sprayed and/or chemically treated to reduce fugitive dust. The application rate of water shall be a minimum of 0.5 gallons per square yard. Application shall be made at least once every two hours during all times the installation is in use unless daily rainfall exceeds .10 of inch.
2. Any buildings which are demolished must be first inspected by a certified inspector to determine if asbestos is present. Whether asbestos is found or not, a report containing the results of the survey must be submitted to the Division of Air Quality.
3. As far as I can determine, Castle Gate has not gained approval to use magnesium chloride for dust suppression. This would need to be obtained through the Division of Water Quality under authority of the Colorado River Salinity Control Act.

**Deficiencies:**

1. The permit must contain a description of coordination and compliance efforts which have been undertaken with the Utah Division of Air Quality.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Amax needs to obtain comments from land owners and managers concerning the postmining land use. Additional information on previous mining activity needs to be provided, and some indication of compliance with air quality regulations needs to

Page 5  
ACT/007/004  
October 19, 1992

be included in the plan. Approval of this chapter cannot be recommended until these and the other deficiencies listed above are corrected.