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State of Utah  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Michael O. Leavitt  
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Ted Stewart  
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October 28, 1994

Ben Grimes, Environmental Coordinator  
Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation  
P. O. Drawer PMC  
Price, Utah 84501

Re: NOV Abatement for Castle Gate Refuse Area, AMAX Coal Company, Castle Gate Mine, ACT/007/004-94F, Folder #5, Carbon County, Utah

Dear Mr. Grimes:

The Division has completed a review of the information submitted on October 11, 1994 which was intended to abate NOV N94-41-3-1. The plans are not considered adequate and additional information is still required. Please review the enclosed technical memo which discusses the deficiencies and respond as quickly as possible. You should be aware that the abatement requirements and time frames are still in effect.

Please call me or Steve Johnson if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daron R. Haddock".

Daron R. Haddock  
Permit Supervisor

enclosure

cc: P. Baker  
J. Helfrich  
S. Johnson  
NOVDEFLAMA





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October 24, 1994

TO: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Steven M. Johnson, Reclamation Hydrologist 

RE: Draft Review, Refuse Area Hydrology (Abatement of N94-41-3-1), Castle Gate Mine, Amax Coal Co., ACT/007/004, Working File, Carbon County, Utah

**SYNOPSIS**

A Notice of Violation (NOV) was written to the Amax Coal Company for the Castle Gate Mine on August 24, 1994. The NOV, N94-41-3-1, pertains to a drainage in Barn Canyon, in which flow from a diversion (CGD-5) in School House Canyon is routed. The NOV was for failure to design, locate, construct and maintain a diversion.

**ANALYSIS**

**Proposal:**

Amax Coal proposes to periodically monitor the existing gully and outlet to CGD-5 to evaluate the condition of the diversion and gully. If a determination is made that excessive erosion is occurring, vegetation, riprap, erosion netting, or other channel protection methods will be implemented to deter erosion.

There were some changes in this amendment that were not directly related to NOV N94-41-3-1. These changes were related to reconstruction of culvert CGC-4 in School House Canyon.

**Analysis:**

CGD-5 discharges into a small natural drainage in Barn Canyon. The drainage has been naturally formed over time to convey the flow from the limited catchment area (less than 5 acres). The addition of flow in this channel from School House Canyon (173 acres) has created a potential stability problem. The rain fall that fell on August 9, 1994 may have created a runoff peak near the peak flow for the 100-year, 6-hour event. This was a large storm that may not be typical for the area. However, the use of this channel will be permanent and should be shown as stable through time.

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A monitoring plan, such as described in the proposal, should be used to discern stability of the channel. However, Amax has not provided the method which would be used to analyze erosion, nor the specific criteria that will be used to show whether excessive erosion has taken place.

The runoff from the August 9, 1994 storm event caused damage to the vegetation in the existing channel. This vegetation must be replaced to protect the stability of the channel. Because the channel is vulnerable, Amax should commit to seeding the channel and assuring a satisfactory vegetation growth.

The sections of this amendment that address work done in School House Canyon have been reviewed and appear satisfactory.

**Deficiencies:**

1. Amax must show the specific technique and criteria that they will use to evaluate the amount of erosion on the natural channel caused by the routing of CGD-5.
2. Amax must commit to seed and reestablish vegetation in the natural channel in Barn Canyon.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The October 11 submittal should not be accepted as an abatement for NOV N94-41-3-1 based on the lack of specific information needed to implement the monitoring plan and lack of information on re-establishment of vegetation.

CC: Paul Baker

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