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

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March 26, 1997

Mr. Johnny Pappas  
Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation  
P. O. Drawer PMC  
Price, Utah 84501

Re: Response to Division Order 96A, Amax Coal Company, Castle Gate Mine,  
ACT/007/004-96I, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

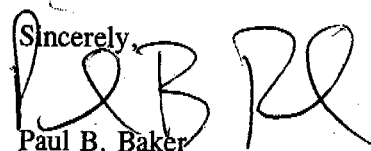
Dear Mr. Pappas:

On May 21, 1996, the Division issued Division Orders to Amax Coal Company and Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation requiring them to submit information and plans concerning the soil resources in Schoolhouse Canyon. These two companies have overlapping permit areas in the Castle Gate Preparation Plant area which includes Schoolhouse Canyon. Both permittees responded to the Division Orders, and amendment 96C was subsequently approved for the Willow Creek Mine.

There were a few problems in the submittals from both permittees, and only those for the Willow Creek plan were corrected. The plans for the Castle Gate Mine were never corrected or approved.

One September 5, 1996, the Division approved amendment 96H whereby a statement referencing the Willow Creek plan was added to the Castle Gate mining and reclamation plan. Because of this amendment, relevant commitments in the Willow Creek plan are considered to also be part of the Castle Gate plan. For this reason, it became unnecessary to have the additional information and commitments in the Castle Gate plan concerning topsoil salvaging in the Schoolhouse Canyon area. Therefore, rather than making corrections to your response to Division Order 96A, the Division has decided to deny this amendment but to consider the Division Order requirements satisfied.

Thank you for your cooperation. Please call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
  
Paul B. Baker

cc: Joe Helfrich