

**PLATEAU  
MINING  
CORPORATION**

Willow Creek Mine  
847 NW Hwy 191  
Helper, Utah 84526  
(435) 472-0475  
Fax: (435) 472-4780

An affiliate of



August 11, 2000

*cc: Paul  
Susan*

Ms. Pamela Grubaugh-Littig  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
1594 West North Temple, STE. 1210  
P.O. Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

**RE: Proof of Publication, Notification of Application for Phase 1 Bond Release,  
Hardscrabble Canyon No. 3 and No. 4 Mines, Castle Gate Holding Company, Castle  
Gate Mine, ACT/007/004, Carbon County, Utah**

Dear Ms. Littig:

*Increasing*

Enclosed is Castle Gate Holding Company's proof of publication regarding the aforementioned. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Johnny Pappas  
Sr. Environmental Engineer

Enclosure

File: Hardscrabble Reclamation  
Chrono: JP000801.ltr

**RECEIVED**

AUG 16 2000

DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS AND MINING

**AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION**

STATE OF UTAH)

ss.

County of Carbon,)

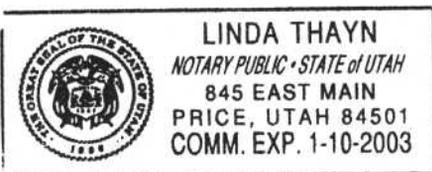
I, Kevin Ashby, on oath, say that I am the Publisher of the Sun Advocate, a twice-weekly newspaper of general circulation, published at Price, State and County aforesaid, and that a certain notice, a true copy of which is hereto attached, was published in the full issue of such newspaper for 4 (Four) consecutive issues, and that the first publication was on the 13th day of July 2000, and that the last publication of such notice was in the issue of such newspaper dated the 3rd day of August, 2000.

*Kevin Ashby*  
Kevin Ashby - Publisher

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 3rd day of August, 2000.

*Linda Thayne*  
Notary Public My commission expires January 10, 2003 Residing at Price, Utah

Publication fee, \$ 580.00



**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Application for Phase I Bond Release  
Hardscrabble Canyon No. 3 and No. 4 Mines  
Castle Gate Holding Company  
Castle Gate Mine  
Permit ACT/007/004, Approved 12/24/99  
Carbon County, Utah**

Castle Gate Holding Company, 999 Corporate Blvd., Linthicum Heights, MD 21090, has completed Phase 1 of the approved reclamation plan for Hardscrabble Canyon No. 3 and No. 4 Mine areas of the Castle Gate Mine. This is based on the completion of the backfilling and grading and drainage control on the bonded area.

The reclamation of the Castle Gate No. 4 Mine area was completed in 1995. The reclamation of the Castle Gate No. 3 Mine - Main Canyon- was completed in 1999. The No. 4 Mine reclamation area was approximately 7.25 acres. The No. 3 Mine reclamation area was approximately 20.43 acres. Resulting in a total of 27.68 acres of reclaimed area.

In accordance with the provisions of R645-301-880, of the State of Utah R645-Coal Mining Rules, notice is hereby given to the general public that Castle Gate Holding Company is applying for partial release of the performance bond posted for this operation.

The original surety bond posted for the Castle Gate Mine is \$1,804,000 of which \$1,305,000 is designated for the Hardscrabble Canyon No. 3 and No. 4 Mine reclamation. Castle Gate Holding Company is seeking release of 60% of the Hardscrabble Canyon portion of the bond, or \$783,000. All earthwork has been completed on site, except for the removal of an electrical substation. Reclamation of this area will be completed when transmission of power from the substation is no longer necessary. A permanent access road has been constructed through the site as per the approved reclamation plan.

The Hardscrabble Canyon area is located on the Standardville, Utah, U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute quadrangle map. The minesites are located in Hardscrabble Canyon, approximately 4 miles northwest of Helper, Utah. Reclamation work was performed on approximately 27.68 acres of disturbed and affected area located on the following described lands:

Township 13 South, Range 9 East, SLB&M, Utah

Section 3: SE1/4 SW1/4

Section 10: NW1/4 NW1/4, NE1/4 NW1/4, SE1/4 NW1/4, NW1/4 NE1/4, SW1/4 NE1/4, SE1/4 NE1/4

The Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining will now evaluate the proposal to determine whether it meets all the criteria of the Permanent Program Performances Standards according to the requirements of the Utah Coal Mining Rules.

Upon completion of the evaluation, a decision will be made as to approval or disapproval of the application. The reclamation plan is available for public review at: Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, 1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801, and at the Price Field Office, 451 East 400 North, Price, Utah 84501.

Written comments, objections and requests for public hearing or information conference on this proposal may be addressed to:

Mr. Lowell P. Braxton, Director  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
P.O. Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

Closing date for submission of such comments, objections and requests for public hearing or information conference on this proposal must be submitted by September 2, 2000.

Published in the Sun Advocate July 13, 20, 27 and August 3, 2000.