



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

Michael O. Leavitt
 Governor

Kathleen Clarke
 Executive Director

Lowell P. Braxton
 Division Director

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210

PO Box 145801

Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

801-538-5340

801-359-3940 (Fax)

801-538-7223 (TDD)

**DIVISION OF OIL GAS & MINING
 TECHNICAL FIELD VISIT**

Date: August 10, 2000

Time: 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

DOGM Staff: Paul Baker

Other Attendees: Johnny Pappas, Castle Gate

Re: Reference Area for Sowbelly Gulch, Castle Gate Holding Company, Castle Gate Mine, ACT/007/004, Internal File

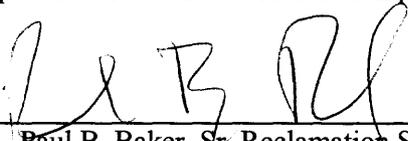
PURPOSE:

To decide upon a specific revegetation reference area for Sowbelly Gulch. The Castle Gate mining and reclamation plan shows a large area where there are several reclaimed abandoned mines that could be used as revegetation reference areas. Rather than have the company sample this entire area, our purpose was to find an area that appeared to have good vegetation composition and had other characteristics similar to the Sowbelly Gulch reclaimed area. This was especially important because the vegetation composition has changed markedly at many of the abandoned mines since the reference areas were originally decided upon in 1993.

OBSERVATIONS:

Most of the abandoned mine sites have less cover from grass than one would normally expect. One site was dominated by sagebrush and winterfat, and I felt there were more shrubs than would be desirable. Most of the other sites had a more desirable number of shrubs, but the herbaceous vegetation was dominated by alfalfa, an introduced species that was not planted at the permitted site.

In Sowbelly Gulch just down from the reclaimed permitted site is an old building with some reclaimed slopes. This area was dominated by grasses but also had a good shrub component, and I felt the composition was good. This area appeared to match the conditions in the permitted area fairly well, so we marked part of the area so it could be sampled for bond release comparison.

Signature:  on August 16, 2000
 Paul B. Baker, Sr. Reclamation Specialist

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cc: Johnny Pappas, Castle Gate
 Joe Helfrich, DOGM

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