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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)

December 7, 2000

TO: Internal File

FROM: Joseph C. Helfrich, Project Team Lead 

RE: Technical Analysis of Amendment AM00D, Castle Gate Holding Co., Castle Gate Mine, C/007/004-AM00D

SUMMARY:

The proposal to conclude the monitoring of the slump area in Sowbelly Canyon was received by the Division on 11/14/00. According to the current operation and reclamation plan some time during calendar year 1997 a small area of movement was noted in the vicinity of reclaimed sediment pond 016. The movement consisted of a few minor fractures and several minor depressions, < 18" deep along the northeast edge of the reclaimed pond. A proposal to monitor the area, (amendment # 97B), for two years was approved by the division on January 6, 1998. This application provides data and analyses for the two year monitoring period.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 817.99; R645-301-515.

Analysis:

A survey network consisting of one control point and fifteen monitoring points was established in a grid pattern over the slump area. Monitoring was conducted biannually on 10/14/97, 06/23/98, 11/18/98, 06/17/99, 09/17/99, 06/29/00, and 10/04/00. The movement in the area ranged from .30 to 1.32 feet from October '97 to October 2000. The slump area is currently compatible with the post mining land use as it does not pose a threat to wildlife or livestock. Since the initial settling there have been no noticeable cracks or depressions.

TECHNICAL MEMO

Findings:

The applicant has demonstrated through monitoring and observations that the slump area is compatible with the post mining land use and meets the requirements of the Utah Coal Regulatory Program. No additional monitoring is required.

RECOMMENDATION:

The application is recommended for approval at this time.

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