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

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bcc:  
Paul Baker

May 11, 2000

Johnny Pappas, Sr. Environmental Engineer  
Castle Gate Holding Company  
847 Northwest Highway 191  
Helper, Utah 84526

Re: Conditional Approval of Hardscrabble As Builts, Castle Gate Holding Company, Castle Gate Mine , ACT/007/004-AM00A, Outgoing File

Dear Mr. Pappas:

The above-referenced amendment is conditionally approved, upon receipt of five clean copies by June 11, 2000. A stamped approved copy will be returned for incorporation into your Mining and Reclamation Plan. A copy of our technical analysis is enclosed for your information.

If you have any question, please call me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Daron R. Haddock".

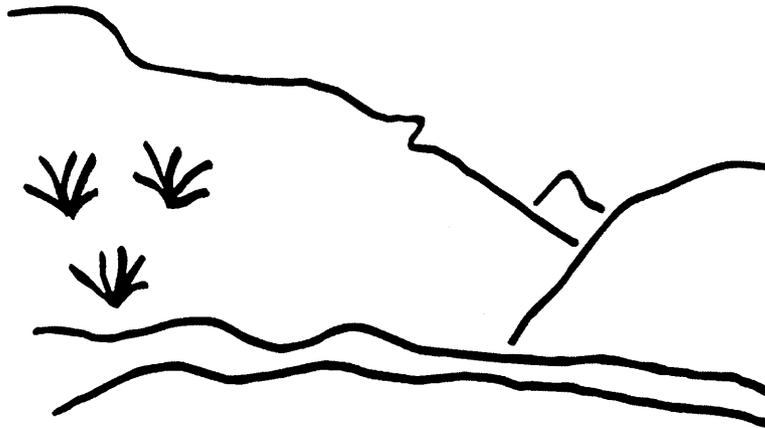
Daron R. Haddock  
Permit Supervisor

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Enclosure:

cc: Vicky Miller, Plateau Mining Corp.  
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# State of Utah



## Utah Oil Gas and Mining

### Coal Regulatory Program

Castle Gate Mine  
Hardscrabble Final As-builts  
ACT/007/004-AM00A  
Technical Analysis  
May 9, 2000

INTRODUCTION

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## INTRODUCTION

The permittee for the Castle Gate Mine has been reclaiming Hardscrabble Canyon since 1993. The substation at the upper end of the canyon remains, but all other facilities have either been removed or modified for the postmining land use. The canyon containing the No. 4 Mine was reclaimed in 1993 with some additional work done in 1995. The Goose Island refuse disposal area was reclaimed in 1984, and part of this area was reworked in 1999. The rest of the canyon was regraded and reseeded in 1996 through 1999. The Board of Oil, Gas and Mining gave the permittee an Earth Day Award for the reclamation work done in 1996.

Some of the plan the Division originally approved was contingent on what conditions were found during regrading. For example, there are some cliffs near the lower gate that were covered with sidecast material during original construction, and it was not known how much sidecast material was present or whether it would be possible to expose these cliffs. Because there were unknown conditions, it was necessary to make numerous field modifications, and these should be reflected in the current amendment.

The Division received the original as-built submittal on April 4, 2000, and modifications were made in a submittal received April 28, 2000. Maps depicting contours and cross sections were ground truthed on April 21, 2000.

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RECLAMATION PLAN

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The revisions to the maps and cross sections involved the reworking of the channel at Hardscrabble Canyon. The channel was constructed as shown in the as built drawing.

On April 4, 2000, the Division received amendment AM00A that contained certified as built drawings for the topographic maps and cross sections for Hardscrabble Canyon. On April 21, 2000, Joe Helfrich, Wayne Western and Vicky Miller visited Hardscrabble Canyon and Goose Island. The Division ground truthed the maps and found they were adequate.

The revisions to the maps and cross sections involved the reworking of the channel at Hardscrabble Canyon. The channel was constructed as shown in the as built drawing.

**Findings:**

Information provided in the application is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

## **BONDING AND INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 800; R645-301-800, et seq.

**Analysis:**

### **Determination of Bond Amount**

The Division had requested that the Permittee give the Division detailed reclamation bond costs information. The Division wanted that information to allow the Permittee to reduce the bond by a bond adjustment. On April 21, 2000, Johnny Pappas stated that he was not interested in a bond adjustment even if it could reduce the bond. Therefore, the Division will drop the request for bond data.

**Findings:**

Information provided in the application is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.