



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

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December 20, 2000

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

Re: Conditional Approval of Sowbelly Slump Monitoring, Castle Gate Holding Co., Castle Gate Mine, C/007/004-AM00D, Outgoing File

Dear Mr. Pappas:

The above-referenced amendment is conditionally approved upon receipt of five clean copies. Once we receive these copies, we will send a stamped incorporated copy to you for insertion into your Mining and Reclamation Plan. A copy of our Technical Analysis is enclosed for your information.

If you have any questions, please call me at (801) 538- 5325 or Joe Helfrich at (801) 538-5290

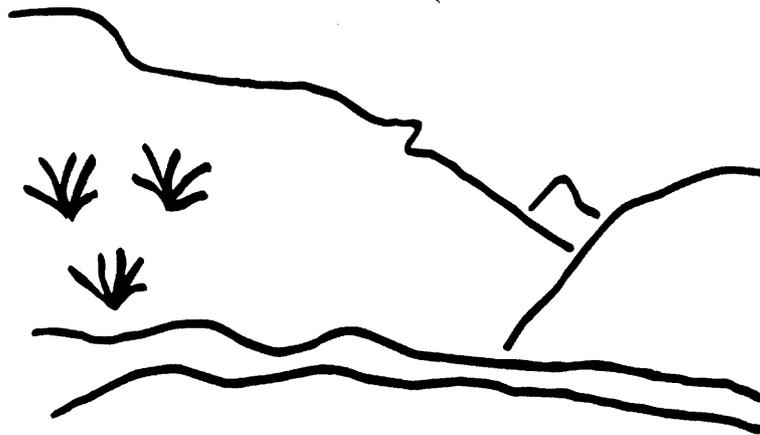
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daron R. Haddock".

Daron R. Haddock
Permit Supervisor

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Enclosure:
cc: Price Field Office
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State of Utah



Utah Oil Gas and Mining

Coal Regulatory Program

Castle Gate
Sowbelly Slump Monitoring
C/007/004- AM00D
Technical Analysis
December 18, 2000

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

INTRODUCTION

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.

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Revised : December 18, 2000

OPERATION PLAN

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.

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.

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