



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Utah State Office  
 P.O. Box 45155  
 Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155  
 www.ut.blm.gov

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
 3482 (UT-923)  
 SL-029093

**MAY 07 2003**

Utah Coal Regulatory program  
 Pamela Grubaugh-Littig  
 Utah Division of Oil Gas and Mining  
 P.O. Box 145801  
 Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

*Incoming*  
*C/007/004*  
*Copy Pam*

Re: Phase II Bond Release - Sowbelly and Hardscrabble Canyons, Castle Gate Mine, Castle Gate Holding Company, C/007/004

Dear Ms. Grubaugh-Littig

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has received your request for our concurrence for the subject mine reclamation bond release. This letter documents the Bureau's concurrence with regards to the laws governing the Federal coal lease and the public lands.

The Sowbelly and Hardscrabble Canyon portal locations of the Castle Gate Mine complex were inspected with a joint agency visit on August 22, 2002, and on a separate yearly lease inspection on September 27, 2002. The BLM's jurisdiction on this area is limited to protection of the coal resource as the surface estate is held in private ownership. Public lands under the BLM's management lies a mile to the north of both canyon portal locations and none of the reclamation is on public lands. A road left in place up the canyon provides access to public lands for grazing use. The portals in both canyons have been sealed and reclaimed to meet standards of coal resource protection (ingress and egress into portals and protection from combustion).

We therefore have no objections to Phase II bond release for Sowbelly and Hardscrabble Canyons of the Castle Gate Mine complex. Should you have any questions, please contact Stephen Falk at the Price Field Office (435-636-3605) or Stan Perkes of my staff (801-539-4036).

Sincerely,

James F. Kohler  
 Chief, Solid Minerals Branch

cc: Office of Surface Mining  
 1999 Broadway, Suite 3320  
 Denver, Colorado 80202-5733  
 Price Field Office, case file, (UT-070)  
 Plateau Mining Corporation  
 847 NW Hwy 191  
 Helper, Utah 84526

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DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING