

## CASTLE GATE HOLDING COMPANY

Castle Gate Mine  
P.O. Box 30  
847 NW HWY 191  
Helper, Utah 84526  
(435)472-0475  
Fax: (435)472-4782

September 21, 2004

Ms. Pamela Grubaugh-Littig  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210  
P.O. Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

*J. Ware*  
9/27/04

Re: **Phase I Bond Release Application, Hardscrabble Substation Area, Castle Gate Mine, C/007/004, Castle Gate Holding Company, Carbon County, Utah**

Dear Ms. Grubaugh-Littig:

Castle Gate Holding Company (CGHC) is submitting the aforementioned. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to Dennis Ware at (435) 472-4737.

Sincerely,



Johnny Pappas  
Sr. Environmental Engineer

Enclosures

RECEIVED  
SEP 24 2004  
DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

# APPLICATION FOR COAL PERMIT PROCESSING

Permit Change  New Permit  Renewal  Exploration  Bond Release  Transfer

**Permittee:** Castle Gate Holding Company

**Mine:** Castle Gate Mine

**Permit Number:** C/007/004

**Title:** Hardscrabble Substation Area Phase I Bond Release

**Description,** Include reason for application and timing required to implement:

**Instructions:** If you answer yes to any of the first eight (gray) questions, this application may require Public Notice publication.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | 1. Change in the size of the Permit Area? Acres: _____ Disturbed Area: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> increase <input type="checkbox"/> decrease. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | 2. Is the application submitted as a result of a Division Order? DO# _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | 3. Does the application include operations outside a previously identified Cumulative Hydrologic Impact Area?                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | 4. Does the application include operations in hydrologic basins other than as currently approved?   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | 5. Does the application result from cancellation, reduction or increase of insurance or reclamation bond?   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | 6. Does the application require or include public notice publication?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | 7. Does the application require or include ownership, control, right-of-entry, or compliance information?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | 8. Is proposed activity within 100 feet of a public road or cemetery or 300 feet of an occupied dwelling?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | 9. Is the application submitted as a result of a Violation? NOV # _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | 10. Is the application submitted as a result of other laws or regulations or policies?<br><i>Explain:</i> _____                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | 11. Does the application affect the surface landowner or change the post mining land use?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | 12. Does the application require or include underground design or mine sequence and timing? (Modification of R2P2)                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | 13. Does the application require or include collection and reporting of any baseline information?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | 14. Could the application have any effect on wildlife or vegetation outside the current disturbed area?   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | 15. Does the application require or include soil removal, storage or placement?   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | 16. Does the application require or include vegetation monitoring, removal or revegetation activities?  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | 17. Does the application require or include construction, modification, or removal of surface facilities?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | 18. Does the application require or include water monitoring, sediment or drainage control measures?  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | 19. Does the application require or include certified designs, maps or calculation?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | 20. Does the application require or include subsidence control or monitoring?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | 21. Have reclamation costs for bonding been provided?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | 22. Does the application involve a perennial stream, a stream buffer zone or discharges to a stream?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | 23. Does the application affect permits issued by other agencies or permits issued to other entities?   |

**Please attach four (4) review copies of the application. If the mine is on or adjacent to Forest Service land please submit five (5) copies, thank you.** (These numbers include a copy for the Price Field Office)

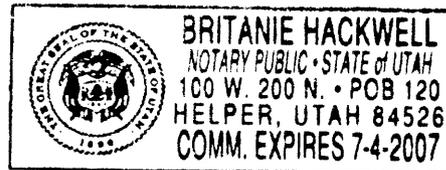
I hereby certify that I am a responsible official of the applicant and that the information contained in this application is true and correct to the best of my information and belief in all respects with the laws of Utah in reference to commitments, undertakings, and obligations herein.

JOHNNY PAPPAS  
Print Name

[Signature] - Sr. Env. Engineer - 9/20/04  
Sign Name, Position, Date

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 20<sup>th</sup> day of SEPTEMBER, 2004

Britaine Hackwell  
Notary Public



My commission Expires: July 4, 2007;  
Attest: State of UTAH } ss:  
County of CARBON

**For Office Use Only:**

Assigned Tracking Number:

Received by Oil, Gas & Mining

**RECEIVED**

**SEP 24 2004**

DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING



**TABLE 3.1-2**  
**SUMMARY OF BONDING AND RECLAMATION COSTS**

<b>SITE</b>	<b>DISTURBED ACRES</b>	<b>BONDING AMOUNT</b>
<b>Sowbelly Canyon (Gulch)</b>	<b>21</b>	<b><del>233,000</del> 148,000</b>
<b>Hardscrabble Canyon</b>	<b>39</b>	<b><del>318,100</del> 235,000</b>
<b>Adit No. 1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>129,054</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>63</b>	<b><del>680,154</del> 512,054</b>

**LIST OF APPENDICES (Continued)**

- APPENDIX 3.3H STABILITY ANALYSIS FOR THE PROPOSED FILL SLOPES IN  
HARDSCRABBLE NO. 4 MINE CANYON
- APPENDIX 3.3I *DELETED*
- APPENDIX 3.3J RECLAMATION AS-BUILT HYDROLOGY CALCULATIONS, NO. 4 MINE  
CANYON HCRD-1
- APPENDIX 3.3K CHANNEL AND RIPRAP CERTIFICATIONS, RECLAIMED CHANNEL  
HCRD-1
- APPENDIX 3.3L LETTER REQUESTING POST-RECLAMATION ACCESS IN  
HARDSCRABBLE CANYON
- APPENDIX 3.3M HARDSCRABBLE CANYON 1995 SOIL EVALUATION
- APPENDIX 3.3N HARDSCRABBLE CANYON RECLAMATION AS-BUILT HYDROLOGY  
CALCULATIONS
- APPENDIX 3.3O HARDSCRABBLE CANYON RECLAMATION AS-BUILT CHANNEL  
CERTIFICATIONS
- APPENDIX 3.3P HARDSCRABBLE CANYON RECLAMATION AS-BUILT MAIN CANYON  
MASS BALANCE VOLUMES
- APPENDIX 3.3Q HARDSCRABBLE CANYON RECLAMATION AS-BUILT FILTER BLANKET  
PLACEMENT
- APPENDIX 3.3R HARDSCRABBLE CANYON ~~PHASE I~~-BOND RELEASE NEWSPAPER  
ADVERTISEMENTS ~~AND LAND OWNER AND AGENCY LETTERS~~
- APPENDIX 3.3S HARDSCRABBLE CANYON AS-BUILT SEED MIXES

the main canyon is reclaimed, HCRD-1 was routed to operational diversion HCD-7 until HCRD-8 was installed.

Information regarding the operational diversions is presented in Appendix 3.3B, Tables 3.3-1 through 3.3-4, and Exhibit 3.3-3. These structures were retained until replaced during reclamation.

As-built reclamation channels and certifications are presented in Appendix 3.3O and shown on Exhibit 3.3-23 (Hardscrabble Canyon As-Built Reclamation Topography and Treatment Map).

### **3.3-4(3) Alternative Sediment Control Measures**

Due to the narrow nature of the canyon and the desire to avoid redisturbance of a significant portion of Hardscrabble Canyon in a future phase of reclamation, the operational hydrology sedimentation ponds 007, 008 and 009 were removed during the Phase II grading operations. Therefore, alternative sediment control measures (ASCMs) were implemented during reclamation of the site to reduce the quantity of sediment yield from the area. As noted in section 3.3-4(1), these ASCMs will include the following practices in varying degrees:

1. Ripping of the regraded surface prior to placement of growth media,
2. Incorporation of hay mulch into the growth media,
3. Deep gouging of the growth media,
4. Seeding the prepared soil,
5. Addition of more mulch following seeding, and
6. Physically or chemically anchoring the final mulch layer.

Also, as noted in Section 3.3-4(2), stream channels which are constructed during reclamation will be armored with appropriate riprap to provide long-term protection against channel erosion. Furthermore, areas that do not exhibit successful revegetation will be reseeded. Based on Simons, Li & Associates (1983), these methods are effective at controlling sediment yields for the purpose of mine reclamation.

### Phase III Reclamation

- |    |                                 |                            |
|----|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 5. | Vegetation and water monitoring | For 10 years after seeding |
| 6. | Reclamation monitoring          | Until bond release         |

### Phase IV Reclamation

- |    |                       |   |
|----|-----------------------|---|
| 7. | Removal of substation | <del>Completed in 2002 When no longer needed</del><br><del>The Power line associated with the substation was disconnected and responsibility for the power line was transferred to the Willow Creek Mine (C-007/038).</del> |
|----|-----------------------|---|

### Phase V Reclamation

- |    |  |                            |
|----|--|----------------------------|
| 8. | Vegetation monitoring of substation area | For 10 years after seeding |
|----|--|----------------------------|

### **3.3-6 Highwall Variance from Approximate Original Contour**

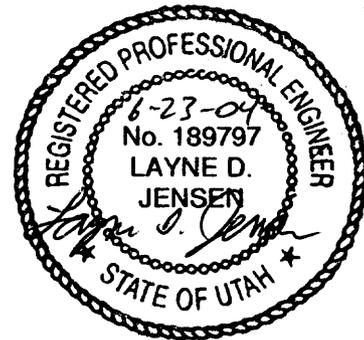
The highwalls created to access the coal outcrops in Hardscrabble Canyon were created during the early 1960's prior to the advent of SMCRA and were not re-affected after SMCRA. The location and extent of these highwalls is delineated on Exhibit 3.3-2, as the No. 3 portal highwall, the No. 4 portal highwall and the No. 5 mine return air shaft.

The highwalls in the Hardscrabble Canyon are not significantly greater in height or length than the dimensions of existing cliffs in the surrounding area. The highwalls are similar in structural composition to the preexisting cliffs in the surrounding area and are compatible with the visual attributes and geomorphic processes of the area (R645-301-553.651 through 553.653). Documentation for these statements can be found in Appendix 3.3D, Section 3.6 beginning on page 3-4 of the EarthFax Slope Stability Analyzes.

The reclamation plan shown on Exhibits 3.3-4 and 3.3-4A, and as reclaimed as shown on Exhibits 3.3-19, 3.3-23, and 3.3-17 also meets the requirements of R645-301-553.500 through 553.524. The volume of spoil material is insufficient to completely backfill the highwalls. The highwalls will be eliminated to the maximum extent possible, but the results will be limited by the lack of available spoil material.

Limited spoil material is available in Hardscrabble Canyon for several reasons. When the highwalls were cut in the 1960's, most of this material was pushed onto the side slopes of the

*Hardscobble Canyon Substation Area As-built  
Reclamation Channel and Certification*



Handscabble Canyon Substation Area As-built  
Reclamation Channel and Certification

Calculations below represent the minimum measurement of the as-built channel. Therefore the rest of the channel has a greater capacity than the cross-section modeled.

HCRD-12

$$Q_{10-6} = 1.48 \text{ cfs}$$

	<u>Design</u>	<u>As-built</u>	
Bottom Width	3.0	3.0	
Side Slopes	2:1	2.6:1	See pages 2+3 and Figures 1+2
Depth	1'	8"	
Riprap $D_{50}$	2.5"	6"	
min slope	10%	5.9%	
max slope	10%	10%	
max flow depth	0.14'	0.17'	
max flow velocity	3.27 fps	2.91 fps	

This channel can handle the design event with 6" of freeboard. The as-built channel is shorter than shown on the approved recl. design because the upper part of the drainage did not appear to be disturbed and had excellent vegetation including mature trees.

Swale Road Crossing

No design calculation

$$Q_{10-6} = 1.48 \text{ cfs}$$

$$\text{Bottom width} = 2.5'$$

$$\text{Side slopes} = 3:1$$

$$\text{Depth} = 6"$$

$$\text{Riprap } D_{50} = 2"$$

$$\text{Slope} = 5.9\%$$

See pages 4+5  
and Figure 1

$$\text{Depth} = 0.17'$$

$$\text{Velocity} = 2.98 \text{ fps}$$

The swale can handle the design event with 4" of freeboard.

# HCRD-12 MIN SLOPE Worksheet for Trapezoidal Channel

Project Description	
Worksheet	Hardscrabble Canyon
Flow Element	Trapezoidal Channel
Method	Manning's Formula
Solve For	Channel Depth

Input Data	
Mannings Coefficient	0.039
Slope	0.059000 ft/ft
Left Side Slope	2.60 H : V
Right Side Slope	2.60 H : V
Bottom Width	3.00 ft
Discharge	1.48 cfs

$$n = 0.0456 (\text{slope} \times R_{50})^{0.149}$$

$$= \frac{0.059}{6} = 0.039$$
 (Abt et al, 1987)

Results	
Depth	0.17 ft
Flow Area	0.6 ft <sup>2</sup>
Wetted Perimeter	3.93 ft
Top Width	3.87 ft
Critical Depth	0.19 ft
Critical Slope	0.041093 ft/ft
Velocity	2.58 ft/s
Velocity Head	0.10 ft
Specific Energy	0.27 ft
Froude Number	1.18
Flow Type	Supercritical

freeboard = 0.5'

# HCRD-12 MAX SLOPE Worksheet for Trapezoidal Channel

Project Description	
Worksheet	Hardscrabble Canyon
Flow Element	Trapezoidal Channel
Method	Manning's Formula
Solve For	Channel Depth

Input Data	
Mannings Coefficient	0.042 $n = 0.0456 (0.1 \times 6)^{0.157} = 0.424$
Slope	0.100000 ft/ft
Left Side Slope	2.60 H : V
Right Side Slope	2.60 H : V
Bottom Width	3.00 ft
Discharge	1.48 cfs

Results	
Depth	0.15 ft
Flow Area	0.5 ft <sup>2</sup>
Wetted Perimeter	3.84 ft
Top Width	3.78 ft
Critical Depth	0.19 ft
Critical Slope	0.048150 ft/ft
Velocity	2.91 ft/s $< 5.0 \text{ fps}$ non-erosive
Velocity Head	0.13 ft
Specific Energy	0.28 ft
Froude Number	1.40
Flow Type	Supercritical

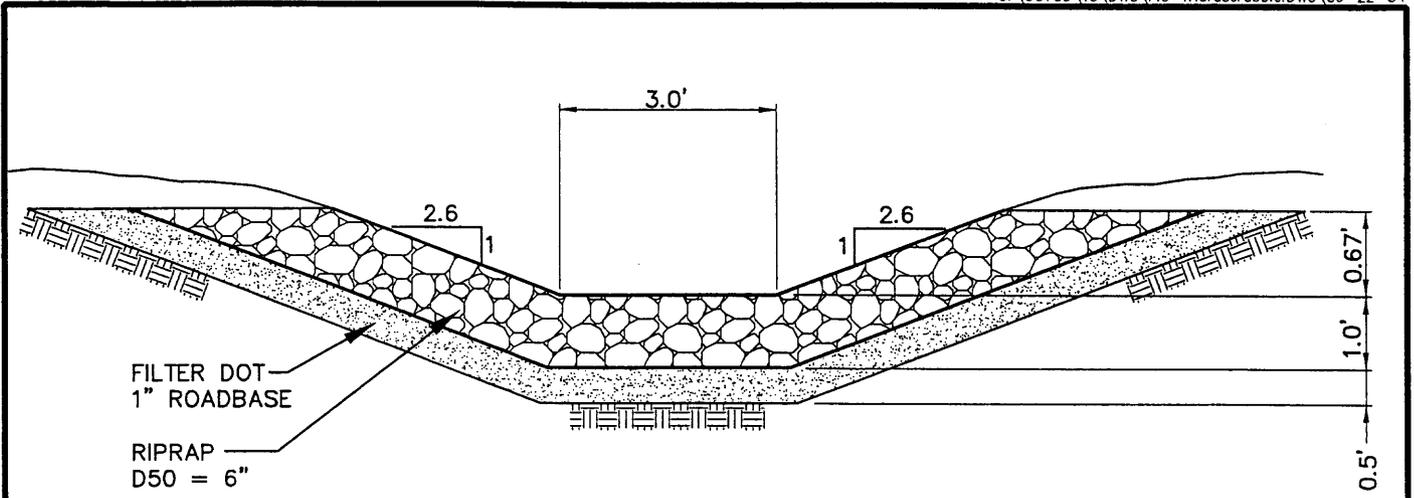
# HCRD-12 SWALE ROAD CROSSING Worksheet for Trapezoidal Channel

Project Description	
Worksheet	Hardscrabble Canyon
Flow Element	Trapezoidal Channel
Method	Manning's Formula
Solve For	Channel Depth

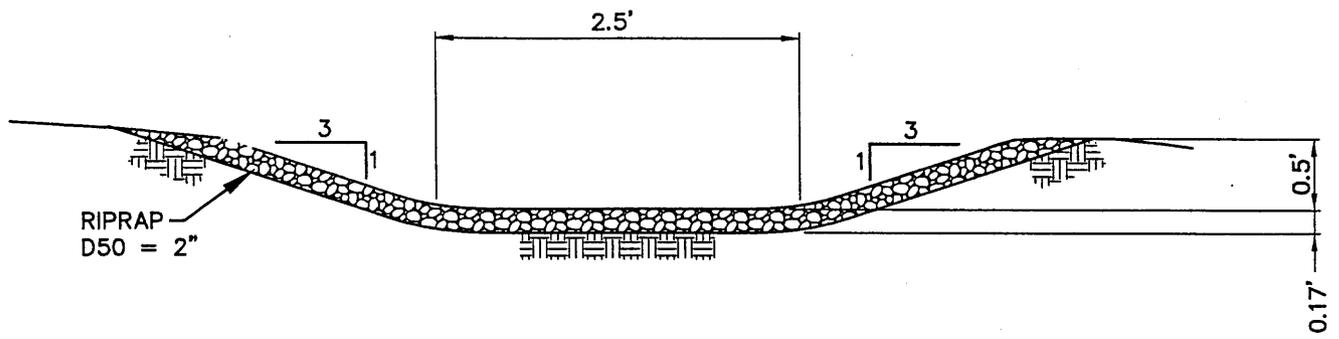
Input Data	
Mannings Coefficient	0.033
Slope	0.059000 ft/ft
Left Side Slope	3.00 H : V
Right Side Slope	3.00 H : V
Bottom Width	2.50 ft
Discharge	1.48 cfs

$$n = 0.0456(0.059 \times 2)^{0.159} = 0.326$$

Results	
Depth	0.17 ft < 0.5'
Flow Area	0.5 ft <sup>2</sup>
Wetted Perimeter	3.55 ft
Top Width	3.49 ft
Critical Depth	0.20 ft
Critical Slope	0.028616 ft/ft
Velocity	2.98 ft/s < 5.0 ft/s non-erosive.
Velocity Head	0.14 ft
Specific Energy	0.30 ft
Froude Number	1.40
Flow Type	Supercritical



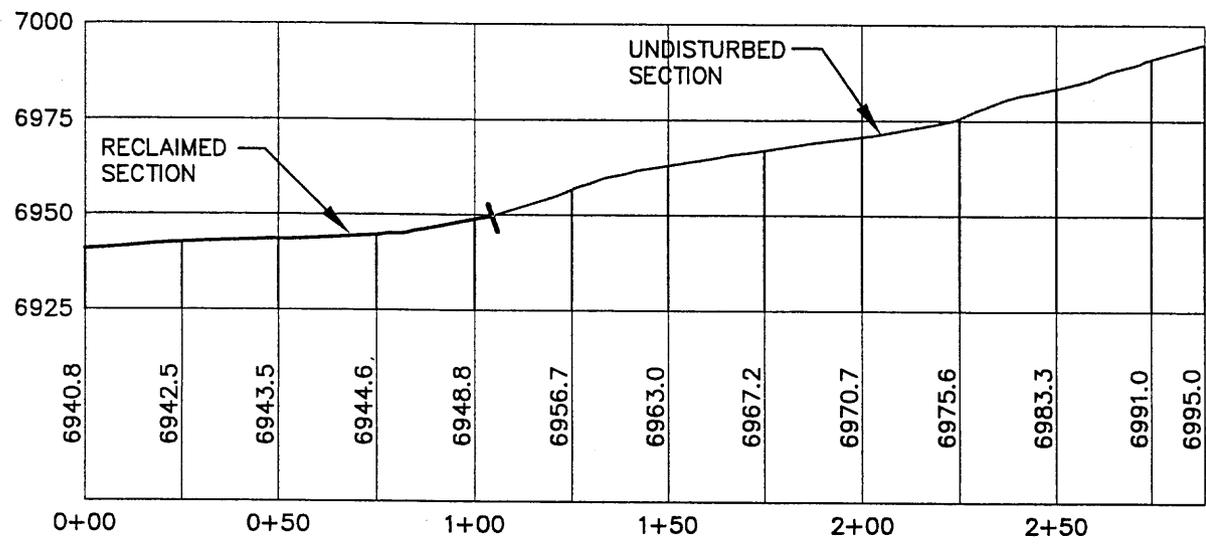
**HCRD-12**  
NO SCALE



**SWALE ROAD CROSSING**  
NO SCALE

FIGURE 1. HARDSCRABBLE CANYON SUBSTATION AREA CHANNEL CROSS-SECTIONS





HCRD-12

MAX. SLOPE = 10.0%  
 MIN. SLOPE = 5.9%  
 AVE. SLOPE = 8.7%

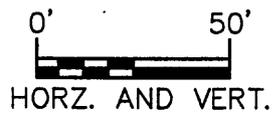


FIGURE 2. HARDSCRABBLE SUBSTATION AREA CHANNEL PROFILE **EarthFax**

Chapter 3, Section 3.3  
Castle Gate Mine  
Hardscrabble Canyon

~~September 2004~~ ~~December 2004~~

**APPENDIX 3.3R**

**HARDSCRABBLE CANYON ~~PHASE 1~~ BOND RELEASE NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT  
AND LAND OWNER AND AGENCY LETTERS**

007/004

**Public Notice**

**Application for Phase I Bond Release  
Hardscrabble Canyon Substation Area  
Castle Gate Holding Company  
Castle Gate Mine  
Permit C/007/004, Approved 12/24/94  
Carbon County, Utah**

Castle Gate Holding Company, 999 Corporate Blvd., Linthicum Heights, MD 21090, has completed Phase I of the approved reclamation plan for the Hardscrabble Canyon substation area of the Castle Gate Mine. This is based on meeting the backfilling and grading and drainage control requirements for Phase I reclamation in accordance with the approved reclamation plan.

In accordance with the provisions of R645-301-880, of the State of Utah R645-Coal Mining Rules, notice is hereby given to the general public that Castle Gate Holding Company is applying for partial release of the performance bond posted for this operation.

The surety bond posted for the Castle Gate Mine is \$680,154 of which \$318,000 is designated for the Hardscrabble Canyon reclamation. Castle Gate Holding Company is seeking release of \$83,100 from the Hardscrabble Canyon portion of the bond. All earthwork, drainage control, and revegetation have been completed on site.

The Hardscrabble Canyon No. 3 & 4 Mines are located on the Standardville, Utah, U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute quadrangle map. The mine site is located in Hardscrabble Canyon, approximately 4 miles west-northwest of Helper, Utah. Reclamation work was performed on approximately 0.72 acres located on the following described lands:

**Township 13 South, Range 9 East, SLB&M, Utah**

Section 3: SE1/4SW1/4

The Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining will now evaluate the proposal to determine whether it meets all the criteria of the Permanent Program Performance Standards according to the requirements of the Utah Coal Mining Rules.

Written comments, objections and requests for public hearing or information conference on this proposal may be addressed to:

Utah Coal Program  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210  
P.O. Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

Closing date for submission of such comments, objections and requests for public hearing or information conference on this proposal must be submitted by Month Date, 2004.

Published in the Sun Advocate – Month Date, Date, Date, Date, 2004

# CASTLE GATE HOLDING COMPANY

Castle Gate Mine  
P.O. Box 30  
847 NW HWY 191  
Helper, Utah 84526  
(435)472-0475  
Fax: (435)472-4782

September 21, 2004

Mr. Roger Wheeler  
Director Land Management  
American Electric Power  
700 Morrison Road  
Gahanna, Ohio 43230-6642

Re: Notification of Application for Phase I Bond Release, Substation Area, Hardscrabble Canyon No. 3 & 4 Mine, Castle Gate Holding Company, Castle Gate Mine, C/007/004, Carbon County, Utah

Dear Mr. Wheeler:

Castle Gate Holding Company has completed Phase I of the approved reclamation plan for the substation area at the Hardscrabble Canyon No. 3 & 4 Mine. This is based on meeting the backfilling and grading requirements for Phase I reclamation.

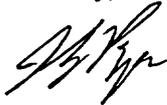
In accordance with the provisions of R645-301-880 of the State of Utah R645 Coal Mining Rules, this letter will serve as notification that Castle Gate Holding Company intends to file an application with the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining for partial release of the performance bond posted for this operation.

The surety bond posted for the Castle Gate Mine is \$680,154 of which \$318,000 is designated for the Hardscrabble Canyon reclamation. Castle Gate Holding Company is seeking release of \$83,100 from the Hardscrabble Canyon portion of the bond. All earthwork and revegetation has been completed on site.

Comments concerning Phase I bond release from the legal or equitable owner of record of the surface areas to be affected and from the Federal, Utah and local government agencies which would have to initiate, implement, approve, or authorize the proposed use of the land following reclamation should be mailed to: Plateau Mining Corporation, Attention: Johnny Pappas, P.O. Box 30, Helper, Utah 84526.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (435) 472-4741.

Sincerely,



Johnny Pappas  
Sr. Environmental Engineer

# CASTLE GATE HOLDING COMPANY

Castle Gate Mine  
P.O. Box 30  
847 NW HWY 191  
Helper, Utah 84526  
(435)472-0475  
Fax: (435)472-4782

September 21, 2004

Mr. Mark Mackiewicz  
Bureau of Land Management  
125 South 600 West  
Price, Utah 84501

Re: Notification of Application for Phase I Bond Release, Substation Area, Hardscrabble Canyon No. 3 & 4 Mine, Castle Gate Holding Company, Castle Gate Mine, C/007/004, Carbon County, Utah

Dear Mr. Mackiewicz:

Castle Gate Holding Company has completed Phase I of the approved reclamation plan for the substation area at the Hardscrabble Canyon No. 3 & 4 Mine. This is based on meeting the backfilling and grading requirements for Phase I reclamation.

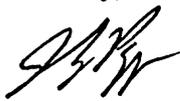
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Sincerely,



Johnny Pappas  
Sr. Environmental Engineer

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P.O. Box 30  
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Helper, Utah 84526  
(435)472-0475  
Fax: (435)472-4782

September 21, 2004

Mr. William D. Krompel  
Commissioner  
120 East Main Street  
Price, Utah 84501

Re: Notification of Application for Phase I Bond Release, Substation Area, Hardscrabble Canyon No. 3 & 4 Mine, Castle Gate Holding Company, Castle Gate Mine, C/007/004, Carbon County, Utah

Dear Mr. Krompel:

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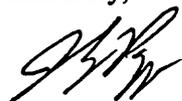
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Sincerely,



Johnny Pappas  
Sr. Environmental Engineer

Env: Hardscrabble Substation Area -Phase I Bond Release  
Chrono: JP040810.LTR

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P.O. Box 30  
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September 21, 2004

Mr. Dave Levanger  
Carbon County Planning and Zoning  
120 East Main Street  
Price, Utah 84501

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Sincerely,



Johnny Pappas  
Sr. Environmental Engineer

Env: Hardscrabble Substation Area -Phase I Bond Release  
Chrono: JP040811.LTR

Hand Scramble  
substation

FROM:  
Granite Seed Company 1697 W. 2100 N.  
Lehi, UT 84043

MIX #: 41093

CASTLE GATE

% PURE			DORM OR		ORIGIN
			GERM	+ HARD	
14.38	FOURWING SALT BUSH	HIGH ELEV.	59.00	+ 0.00 -	TZ NM
5.22	WESTERN WHEATGRASS	ROSANA	52.00	+ 0.00 -	WA
7.45	WINTERFAT	VNS	57.00	+ 0.00 -	TZ NM
6.73	BLUEBUNCH WHEATGRASS	SECAR	84.00	+ 0.00 -	WA
6.43	BASIN WILD RYE	MAGNAR	88.00	+ 0.00 -	TZ WA
6.08	THICKSPIKE WHEATGRASS	CRITANA	93.00	+ 0.00 -	MT
6.02	INDIAN RICEGRASS	NEZPAR	94.00	+ 0.00 -	TZ ID
4.94	SKUNKBRUSH	VNS	86.00	+ 0.00 -	TZ UT
4.56	UTAH SERVICEBERRY	VNS	62.00	+ 0.00 -	TZ UT
3.14	CURL-LEAF MTN MAHOGANY	VNS	90.00	+ 0.00 -	TZ UT
3.08	PURPLE PRAIRIE CLOVER	KANAB	46.00	+ 0.00 -	TZ TX
3.04	LEWIS BLUEFLAX	APPAR	93.00	+ 0.00 -	TZ WA
2.36	STEM RUBBER RABBITBRUSH	VNS	60.00	+ 0.00 -	TZ UT
1.75	SHOWY GOLDENEY	VNS	81.00	+ 0.00 -	TZ UT
1.52	YELLOW SWEETCLOVER	VNS	93.00	+ 0.00 -	CN
0.64	BIG BLUEGRASS	SHERMAN	89.00	+ 0.00 -	WA
0.62	MOUNTAIN BIG SAGEBRUSH	VNS	91.00	+ 0.00 -	TZ UT
0.58	PALMER PENSTEMON	VNS	98.00	+ 0.00 -	TZ UT
0.34	WHITE YARROW	VNS	84.00	+ 0.00 -	TZ WA
0.30	SAND DROPSEED	VNS	95.00	+ 0.00 -	CO

0.05 Other Crop  
16.72 Inert Matter  
0.05 Weed Seed

Date Tested: 07/10/2002  
Restricted Weed: None  
% Hard Seed: 0.00

NET WEIGHT: 26.51 LBS. BULK  
17.10 LBS. PLS

0.75ae

GUARANTEE: Granite Seed guarantees its seed to be of promised quality and true to name as specified. Should seed prove to be other than labeled, liability shall be limited to replacement or refund of purchase price.

SHIP TO:  
STEVE ELLIS

**Application for Phase I Bond Release  
Hardscrabble Canyon No. 3 & 4 Mine Substation Area  
Castle Gate Holding Company  
Castle Gate Mine  
C/007/004**

**September 2004**

## **Introduction**

Castle Gate Holding Company (CGHC) is seeking Phase I Bond Release on approximately 0.72 acres associated with the substation located in Hardscrabble Canyon. This land was reclaimed during the fall of 2002 and is shown on Exhibit 3.3-23. Additional information regarding to the substation area can be found in Section 3.3 of the Castle Gate Mine Permit C/007/004.

The current bonding allocated for Hardscrabble is \$318,000. The Permit expires on December 24, 2004.

Castle Gate Holding Company, formerly AMAX Coal Company, completed backfilling, grading, seeding and mulching on about 37.1 acres of the Hardscrabble Canyon disturbed area. The Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining approved AMAX's Application for Phase I Bond Release on February 14, 2001.

The Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining approved Castle Gate Holding Company's Application for Phase II Bond Release on June 5, 2003. The bond release was for 37.1 acres less the substation area of 0.72 acres and permanent road of 1.21 acres.

Intensive mining occurred in Hardscrabble Canyon since the 1880's, when Teacum Pratt opened the first operation for stocker coal. There are approximately 39 acres disturbed in the canyon and all created pre-SMCRA but continuously used until 1989 when Price River Coal Company closed the mines. The No. 3 & 4 Mines were accessed through Hardscrabble Canyon which lies approximately two miles northwest of Helper, Utah.

Since the 39.0 acres in Hardscrabble Canyon were disturbed by mining prior to the enactment of SMCRA, no topsoil or soil resource material was salvaged from the site. The existing disturbed soils at the site were used for reclamation as topsoil and substitute soil material. The existing soil resource materials were evaluated using DOGM's guidelines for topsoil and overburden.

Earthwork at the Hardscrabble site was completed during the years 1984, 1985, 1993 through 1999, and finished in 2002. All reclamation work performed from 1995 to the present deep gouged and mulched. The gouges vary but are approximately one to two feet deep and about four to six feet across. This method of water harvesting is considered superior to contour furrowing. The gouges trap water and thus increase the amount of soil moisture and the ability for plants to establish and survive. Gouging combined with other treatments implemented by the permittee are the best revegetation methods for the area.

Vegetation is adequate to control erosion over the area not including the substation area assuming the cover will be the same as at nearby abandoned mine reference area where the existing vegetation is controlling erosion. The mining and reclamation plan said the diversity index used to compare reference and reclaimed areas will be used to show revegetation success for the parameters of diversity, seasonal characteristics, permanence, and utility for the postmining land use. The seed mix used should result in diversity at least as great as in the reference area. This is supported by the Division's Phase II Bond Release in June 2003

### **Backfilling and Grading**

The backfilling and grading of the substation area meets or exceeds the approved plan whereby more of the affected area was recontoured to blend in with the adjacent topography. More information regarding the backfilling and grading plan can be found in Section 3.3 of the Castle Gate Mine Permit.

### **Topsoil/Growth Media Resources**

Since the 39.0 acres in Hardscrabble Canyon were disturbed by mining prior to the enactment of SMCRA, no topsoil or soil resource material was salvaged from the site. The existing soils at the site were used for reclamation of the substation area as topsoil and substitute soil material. More information regarding the soil resources plan can be found in Section 3.3 of the Castle Gate Mine Permit.

### **Revegetation**

Once the backfilling and grading, including the channel construction, the soils were prepared for seeding by incorporating 2 tons/acre of certified noxious weed free hay into the soil and the establishing of deep gouges for sediment treatment and water harvesting purposes. Shortly after the soil was prepared, seeding (Appendix 1) was performed and approximately 1.5 tons/acre of certified noxious weed free straw was scattered over the reseeded areas followed by approximately 500 pounds/acre of hydromulch and tackifier. The main purpose of the hydromulch and tackifier is to bind the straw together whereby a semblance of a mat is created to keep the straw in place and provide further erosion control. More information regarding the revegetation plan can be found in Section 3.3 of the Castle Gate Mine Permit.

### **Hydrology**

Reclamation channels were constructed to meet or exceed the minimum design criteria set forth in Utah's R645 Coal rules. The design and as-built of the reclamation channels is presented in Appendix 3.30 in Section 3.3 of the Castle Gate Mine Permit.

### **Bond Release**

Castle Gate Holding Company is requesting a reduction in its bond in accordance with R645-301-880.310. At the completion of Phase I, after the operator completes backfilling and grading (which may include replacement of topsoil) and drainage control of a bonded area in accordance with the approved reclamation plan, 60 percent of the bond can be released.

Therefore, CGHC is requesting a reduction of \$83,100 for the area associated with substation. The proposed Public Notice and Letters to Adjacent Land Owners are presented in Appendix 2 and Appendix 3, respectively.

## **Appendix 1**

### **Vegetation Seed Mix For Substation Area In Hardscrabble Canyon**

Hand Scorable  
substation

FROM:  
Granite Seed Company 1697 W. 2100 N.  
Lehi, UT 84043

MIX #: 41093

CASTLE GATE

% PURE			DORM OR		ORIGIN
			GERM	+ HARD	
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GUARANTEE: Granite Seed guarantees its seed to be of promised quality and true to name as specified. Should seed prove to be other than labeled, liability shall be limited to replacement or refund of purchase price.

SHIP TO:  
STEVE ELLIS

## **Appendix 2**

### **Public Notice**

**Public Notice**

**Application for Phase I Bond Release  
Hardscrabble Canyon Substation Area  
Castle Gate Holding Company  
Castle Gate Mine  
Permit C/007/004, Approved 12/24/94  
Carbon County, Utah**

Castle Gate Holding Company, 999 Corporate Blvd., Linthicum Heights, MD 21090, has completed Phase I of the approved reclamation plan for the Hardscrabble Canyon substation area of the Castle Gate Mine. This is based on meeting the backfilling and grading and drainage control requirements for Phase I reclamation in accordance with the approved reclamation plan.

In accordance with the provisions of R645-301-880, of the State of Utah R645-Coal Mining Rules, notice is hereby given to the general public that Castle Gate Holding Company is applying for partial release of the performance bond posted for this operation.

The surety bond posted for the Castle Gate Mine is \$680,154 of which \$318,000 is designated for the Hardscrabble Canyon reclamation. Castle Gate Holding Company is seeking release of \$83,100 from the Hardscrabble Canyon portion of the bond. All earthwork, drainage control, and revegetation have been completed on site.

The Hardscrabble Canyon No. 3 & 4 Mines are located on the Standardville, Utah, U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute quadrangle map. The mine site is located in Hardscrabble Canyon, approximately 4 miles west-northwest of Helper, Utah. Reclamation work was performed on approximately 0.72 acres located on the following described lands:

Township 13 South, Range 9 East, SLB&M, Utah

Section 3: SE1/4SW1/4

The Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining will now evaluate the proposal to determine whether it meets all the criteria of the Permanent Program Performance Standards according to the requirements of the Utah Coal Mining Rules.

Written comments, objections and requests for public hearing or information conference on this proposal may be addressed to:

Utah Coal Program  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210  
P.O. Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

Closing date for submission of such comments, objections and requests for public hearing or information conference on this proposal must be submitted by Month Date, 2004.

Published in the Sun Advocate – Month Date, Date, Date, Date, 2004

## **Appendix 3**

### **Letters**

# CASTLE GATE HOLDING COMPANY

Castle Gate Mine  
P.O. Box 30  
847 NW HWY 191  
Helper, Utah 84526  
(435)472-0475  
Fax: (435)472-4782

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September 21, 2004

Mr. Roger Wheeler  
Director Land Management  
American Electric Power  
700 Morrison Road  
Gahanna, Ohio 43230-6642

Re: Notification of Application for Phase I Bond Release, Substation Area, Hardscrabble Canyon No. 3 & 4 Mine, Castle Gate Holding Company, Castle Gate Mine, C/007/004, Carbon County, Utah

Dear Mr. Wheeler:

Castle Gate Holding Company has completed Phase I of the approved reclamation plan for the substation area at the Hardscrabble Canyon No. 3 & 4 Mine. This is based on meeting the backfilling and grading requirements for Phase I reclamation.

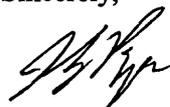
In accordance with the provisions of R645-301-880 of the State of Utah R645 Coal Mining Rules, this letter will serve as notification that Castle Gate Holding Company intends to file an application with the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining for partial release of the performance bond posted for this operation.

The surety bond posted for the Castle Gate Mine is \$680,154 of which \$318,000 is designated for the Hardscrabble Canyon reclamation. Castle Gate Holding Company is seeking release of \$83,100 from the Hardscrabble Canyon portion of the bond. All earthwork and revegetation has been completed on site.

Comments concerning Phase I bond release from the legal or equitable owner of record of the surface areas to be affected and from the Federal, Utah and local government agencies which would have to initiate, implement, approve, or authorize the proposed use of the land following reclamation should be mailed to: Plateau Mining Corporation, Attention: Johnny Pappas, P.O. Box 30, Helper, Utah 84526.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (435) 472-4741.

Sincerely,



Johnny Pappas  
Sr. Environmental Engineer

# CASTLE GATE HOLDING COMPANY

Castle Gate Mine  
P.O. Box 30  
847 NW HWY 191  
Helper, Utah 84526  
(435)472-0475  
Fax: (435)472-4782

September 21, 2004

Mr. Mark Mackiewicz  
Bureau of Land Management  
125 South 600 West  
Price, Utah 84501

Re: Notification of Application for Phase I Bond Release, Substation Area, Hardscrabble Canyon No. 3 & 4 Mine, Castle Gate Holding Company, Castle Gate Mine, C/007/004, Carbon County, Utah

Dear Mr. Mackiewicz:

Castle Gate Holding Company has completed Phase I of the approved reclamation plan for the substation area at the Hardscrabble Canyon No. 3 & 4 Mine. This is based on meeting the backfilling and grading requirements for Phase I reclamation.

In accordance with the provisions of R645-301-880 of the State of Utah R645 Coal Mining Rules, this letter will serve as notification that Castle Gate Holding Company intends to file an application with the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining for partial release of the performance bond posted for this operation.

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Sincerely,



Johnny Pappas  
Sr. Environmental Engineer

# CASTLE GATE HOLDING COMPANY

Castle Gate Mine  
P.O. Box 30  
847 NW HWY 191  
Helper, Utah 84526  
(435)472-0475  
Fax: (435)472-4782

September 21, 2004

Mr. William D. Krompel  
Commissioner  
120 East Main Street  
Price, Utah 84501

Re: **Notification of Application for Phase I Bond Release, Substation Area, Hardscrabble Canyon No. 3 & 4 Mine, Castle Gate Holding Company, Castle Gate Mine, C/007/004, Carbon County, Utah**

Dear Mr. Krompel:

Castle Gate Holding Company has completed Phase I of the approved reclamation plan for the substation area at the Hardscrabble Canyon No. 3 & 4 Mine. This is based on meeting the backfilling and grading requirements for Phase I reclamation.

In accordance with the provisions of R645-301-880 of the State of Utah R645 Coal Mining Rules, this letter will serve as notification that Castle Gate Holding Company intends to file an application with the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining for partial release of the performance bond posted for this operation.

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Sincerely,



Johnny Pappas  
Sr. Environmental Engineer

# CASTLE GATE HOLDING COMPANY

Castle Gate Mine  
P.O. Box 30  
847 NW HWY 191  
Helper, Utah 84526  
(435)472-0475  
Fax: (435)472-4782

September 21, 2004

Mr. Dave Levanger  
Carbon County Planning and Zoning  
120 East Main Street  
Price, Utah 84501

Re: Notification of Application for Phase I Bond Release, Substation Area, Hardscrabble Canyon No. 3 & 4 Mine, Castle Gate Holding Company, Castle Gate Mine, C/007/004, Carbon County, Utah

Dear Mr. Levanger:

Castle Gate Holding Company has completed Phase I of the approved reclamation plan for the substation area at the Hardscrabble Canyon No. 3 & 4 Mine. This is based on meeting the backfilling and grading requirements for Phase I reclamation.

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