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TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

September 6, 2012

TO: Internal File

THRU: April Abate, Lead *AAA*
10-8-2012

FROM: Ingrid Campbell, Environmental Scientist III *IC*

RE: Phase III Bond Release for Hardscrabble and Sowbelly, Castle Gate Holding Company, Castle Gate Mine, Permit C/007/0004, Task ID #4153

SUMMARY:

On August 2, 2012, the Division received an application for phase III bond release in Hardscrabble and Sowbelly Canyons. Reclamation in Hardscrabble Canyon (excluding the substation) was completed in 1999. The area received phase I bond release in 2000 and phase II in 2003. Year 9 and 10 vegetation monitoring of the area was completed in 2008 and 2009. Sowbelly reclamation work was completed in 1995 (excluding the substation). The Division granted phase I bond release in 1997 and phase II in 2003. Year 9 and 10 vegetation monitoring was conducted in 2004 and 2005. In 2010 and 2011, the Permittee removed all subsidence monitoring monuments.

This bond release application proposes to release 57.44 acres from the permit area. 5.56 acres would remain in the permit area for future bond release (this includes the two substation areas and adit #1).

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TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

RECLAMATION PLAN

POSTMINING LAND USES

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.15, 784.200, 785.16, 817.133; R645-301-412, -301-413, -301-414, -302-270, -302-271, -302-272, -302-273, -302-274, -302-275.

Analysis:

The postmining land uses are identified in the Mining and Reclamation Plan, Volume IV, Chapter 4. They are identified as a single or combination of the following: grazing, wildlife habitat, recreational uses, hunting, BLM access for land management, mining and possible limited timber production in mid-evaluation areas. Postmining land use is also mentioned in Volume V, Chapter 9 page 9-12.

The postmining land use was achieved by developing seed mixes that benefit wildlife and other postmining land uses and revegetation success standards on the basis of tree and shrub stocking and vegetative ground cover.

The vegetation success standards were met and exceeded according to the Mt. Nebo Scientific reports found in the bond release application.

Findings:

The information in the bond release application is considered adequate to meet the postmining land use regulations.

REVEGETATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 785.18, 817.111, 817.113, 817.114, 817.116; R645-301-244, -301-353, -301-354, -301-355, -301-356, -302-280, -302-281, -302-282, -302-283, -302-284.

Analysis: