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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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OIL, GAS AND MINING COMPANIES HONORED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Utah Board of Oil, Gas and Mining will present Year 2000 Earth Day Awards to six oil, gas and mining companies on Wednesday, April 26, 2000, in the Department of Natural Resources Auditorium, 1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah. The awards will be presented beginning at 9:00 a.m.

"Earth Day Awards recognize operators who go the extra mile, go beyond what is required by regulation to protect the environment while extracting natural resources," said Board Chairman Dave Lauriski. "It's a common perception that oil, gas and mining companies are not concerned about the environment, but most companies do a great job and these companies we're honoring go well beyond what is required."

Companies receiving the awards are:

BP Amoco Corporation, Houston, Texas - *BP Amoco applied innovative technology while conducting drilling operations in the Anshutz Ranch East Field well W31-04 in Summit County. The technology enabled the majority of produced gas and liquids generated during the drilling process to be captured and processed. These gases and liquids would normally have been burned on location. It also eliminated the need for drilling mud pits which further minimized the potential for environmental impact.*

Brush Wellman, Inc., Delta, Utah - *Brush Wellman exceeded regulatory requirements during reclamation efforts at the Topaz Mine in Juab County, demonstrating exceptional environmental improvement to an active mine site. In the pursuit of innovative methods of mined land reclamation, Brush Wellman developed a program which exceeded all expectations for arid land reclamation.*

(more)

Canyon Fuel Co., LLC, Wellington, Utah - *During construction of its Dugout Canyon Mine facility, Canyon Fuel utilized innovative engineering and construction technology to reduce disturbance to lands at the site. These techniques will greatly enhance future reclamation efforts at the site.*

Canyon Fuel Co., LLC, Wellington, Utah - *Canyon Fuel demonstrated exceptional concern for the environment during construction of a coal conveyer system in Eccles*

Canyon, Carbon County. At considerable expense Canyon Fuel installed a unique conveyer system that allowed for minimal impact during construction and will simplify reclamation when operations cease. Most importantly, the system significantly reduces spillage and dust during transfer.

Co-Op Mining Co., Huntington, Utah - *To access coal in what is known as the "Tank Seam" at its Bear Canyon Mine, Co-Op Mining constructed the Tank Seam Road. Although not required to do so by regulation, Co-Op Mining chose to abandon common road construction techniques, develop innovative construction strategies and utilize techniques to minimize environmental disturbance.*

Inland Production Co., Denver, Colorado - *Inland Production Company's Monument Butte Field encompasses large tracts of environmentally sensitive lands. Inland voluntarily exceeded regulatory requirements in the construction of artificial raptor nests to offset wildlife habitat and took steps to protect wildlife by enclosing water disposal pits. Inland also utilized unique equipment to facilitate the use of adjacent lands by private land owners.*

PacifiCorp, Huntington, Utah - *PacifiCorp's Energy West Mine Rescue Team is recognized for its support of the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program. The mine rescue team is composed of volunteers who train rigorously to deal with underground mine dangers and have been used in several abandoned mine incidents in recent years. Most recently, the team has been providing essential support to efforts involving abandoned mine bat surveys. These surveys ensure that bat habitat is not lost due to efforts to protect the public from abandoned mine dangers.*

PacifiCorp, Huntington, Utah - *PaficiCorp exceeded regulatory requirements when it reclaimed what are called the Miller Canyon Portal breakouts in Emery County. These portals sit approximately 150 feet above the canyon floor on a near vertical cliff. While under no regulatory obligation to reclaim the site, PaficiCorp never-the-less chose to do so. Utilizing a ground crew and helicopter support the project resulted in an example of outstanding reclamation.*

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