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# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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### Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

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November 9, 2016

To: File  
From: Lisa Reinhart

Subject: Sufco Mine Sinkhole

In December 2016, Sufco mine located a sinkhole on the surface above the 2RWL panel within the Castlegate Sandstone. It is located near mid-panel in an area mined in December 2016. The sinkhole measures roughly 40 ft. W X 50 ft. L X 40 ft. deep. It is located along a fault zone that was crossed in that area at depth.

Subsidence features are known to occur naturally in the Castlegate Sandstone along the Mud Springs Hollow fault zone nearby to the east. It is suspected that mining-related subsidence triggered the collapse into some sort of cavity within the fault zone. Exploration drilling over the years in this area has encountered voids on occasion but such voids have always been interpreted as limited zones of open fractures. In this case there may have been a large open fracture that allowed accommodation space for the sinkhole to develop.

In October, Sufco notified the Division the sinkhole has been repaired and reclamation was complete.

On November 8, 2016, I met with Vicky Miller and Bryant Bunnell from Sufco Mine and made a field visit to the location to verify it had been reclaimed. As described by Bryant, heavy equipment was used to scale down the side slopes and existing top soil was used as a top dressing. The side was then broadcast seeded using a seed mix requested by the U.S. Forest Service (landowner).

See attached photos.

### ATTACHMENT A – Sufco Sink Hole



**ATTACHMENT A – Sufco Sink Hole, Reclaimed Photos Taken 11/08/2016**



