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ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PROJECT OPEN HOUSE - PUBLIC INVITED

A proposed abandoned mine reclamation project that would seal about 200 open abandoned mines in the San Rafael Mining District in Emery County will be discussed at an open house at the Museum of the San Rafael in Castle Dale, 96 North 100 East on March 24, 2009 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program is proposing to conduct the reclamation project in the late summer and fall of 2009.

"This project would safeguard hazardous openings at abandoned mines that look inviting and have even been advertised as exciting adventures to explore," said Lucia Malin, program administrator. "Nothing could be further from the truth. Abandoned mines have hidden hazards such as unexpected vertical drop offs, collapsing roofs and unstable sides, high levels of radiation, lack of oxygen or pockets of toxic gases. People who enter them are being foolhardy," continued Malin. "Our message is Stay Out and Stay Alive – we are closing these mines as fast as we can but people need to know that they are not safe to enter."

The public is invited to attend the open house to learn more about the project. "We hope anyone with an interest, questions or information about these mines will stop by and let us know," said Tony Gallegos, project manager. "If you can't attend the meeting, please contact me directly. We need your input by April 7."

For more information contact either Lucia Malin or Tony Gallegos at the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, 1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210, P.O. Box 145801, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84114, or telephone (801) 538-5340. Information is also available at the division's website at <http://www.ogm.utah.gov/amr/default.htm>.

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