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UTAH BOARD OF OIL, GAS AND MINING TO RECOGNIZE INDUSTRY EFFORTS THAT PROTECT ENVIRONMENT

(Salt Lake City) - The Utah Board of Oil, Gas and Mining will present six companies with 2010 Earth Day Awards for their efforts to protect and preserve our environment. The awards will be presented Wednesday, April 28, 2010, beginning at 8:00 a.m. in the auditorium of the Department of Natural Resources, 1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah.

“Today’s mining and oil and gas companies readily accept their responsibility to protect and restore the environment while providing natural resources that ensure our standard of living,” said Board Chairman Douglas Johnson. “Our Earth Day Award program honors those operators who voluntarily exceed the regulatory requirements placed upon them.”

Awards will be presented to Energy West Mining Co., Georgia Pacific Gypsum, Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, Rio Tinto-Kennecott Utah Copper Co., Simplot Phosphates, and Questar Exploration and Production Co.

Energy West Mining Company donated time, expertise and equipment to construct a 2.6 mile long directional borehole as part of a new water pipeline to meet customer needs of the North Emery Water Users Special District. The borehole enabled the water line to traverse a rugged cliff section. The project reduced surface disturbance and will provide a dependable source of clean water for years to come. Georgia Pacific Gypsum developed an innovative method called “bump blasting” that resulted in a more natural looking reclaimed site at its North Quarry near Sigurd, Utah.

Anadarko Petroleum Corporation instituted a program in its Greater Natural Buttes oil field that reduced water truck traffic by 85 percent, fluid truck traffic by 50 percent, fresh water consumption by 70 percent, reduced road dust and diesel emissions, preserved county roads and improved safety conditions. Although not required by any regulation, Rio Tinto-Kennecott Utah Copper is recognized for outstanding final site restoration at its Magna Concentrator located immediately west of Magna, Utah. The concentrator, built in the early 1900s, was closed in 2001.

Simplot Phosphates is recognized for its quality reclamation efforts at its mine north of Vernal, Utah. The company consistently exceeds regulatory requirements during reclamation efforts that occur concurrently with its mining operations. And, Questar Exploration and Production Company earned itself an award for its enhanced reclamation techniques used at plugged and abandoned well sites. The techniques result in reclaimed areas that are stabilized with desirable vegetation much sooner than if left to standard procedures.

The Board of Oil, Gas and Mining has presented Earth Day Awards since 1991. The essential requirement for receiving an award is that a company, organization or individual must voluntarily perform work that significantly enhances or improves the environment even though such action is not required by law.

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