

Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
Mud Creek/Upper Huntington Creek
Cumulative Hydrologic Impact Assessment (CHIA)

- The Division of Oil, Gas and Mining has concluded a review of all studies conducted concerning the origin of water that has flooded a portion of the Skyline coal mine and has been unable to conclusively pinpoint the source of the water.
- Skyline Mine operates in Carbon and Emery counties. A suspected source of the water was Electric Lake, located at the top of Huntington Canyon west of Price, Utah.
- Seven major studies have been completed. Each has provided information adding to the bigger hydrologic picture, yet none of them definitively point to a complete and clear source of the water.
- Most the water, 70 to 90 percent, is coming from deep underground storage that has been isolated from the surface for at least 50 years. Ten to 30 percent of the water is of modern origin, water that has been in contact with the surface within the last 50 years. While the presence of water that has had contact with the surface in the last 50 years is of interest, the information does not provide the source of the water.
- Water is being pumped from a deep water well into Electric Lake at a rate that would replace the approximately 30 percent modern origin water detected within mine flows. It is also noted that seven years of drought, from 1998 to 2005, seems to have taken a toll on water levels in Electric Lake.
- One study indicated some water from Electric Lake may be finding its way into the mine, but division hydrologists question the methodology employed in the study.
- The CHIA finding consists of an assessment of the cumulative impact of all anticipated coal-mining operations on the hydrologic balance within a designated impact area. The finding determines if there will be damage to the system. The area of Skyline Mine includes Mud Creek draining to Scofield Reservoir and Upper Huntington Creek drainage areas.
- In March 1999, Skyline Mine, in the course of normal operations, was forced to deal with a significant inflow of water into the southwest portion of the mine. Peak flows hit a high of 14,800 gallons per minute in 2001 but diminished to 3,100 gallons per minute by December 2004. Skyline Mine closed that portion of the mine in late 2004 and let it flood.
- The finding and reports are available in the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining's Public Information Center at the Department of Natural Resources, 1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah and on the OGM website at <https://fs.ogm.utah.gov/pub/MINES/Coal/007/C0070005/CHIAInfo/>