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OGMCOAL - Winter Quarters Stream Monitoring

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Date: 9/3/2010 2:57 PM
Subject: Winter Quarters Stream Monitoring
CC: "Winters, Carl" <CWinters@archcoal.com>, "Belcher, Austin" <ABelcher2@ar...>

Jim / Daron,
The following is a summary of our conversation(s) yesterday.

While conducting the regular monthly stream flow monitoring earlier in the week, I observed some portions of a side tributary to Winter Quarters Canyon creek that were intermittently dry. The tributary is located in Section 11, T13S, R6E. On the Water Monitoring map, the area of discussion covers from approximately site NL-5 through NL-9, with site NL-7 being undermined by longwall mining in July 2010. As discussed, in the past few years of monitoring stream flows in this section of stream, it has demonstrated perennial flow – at this time of year at a rate of 20-40 gpm. The stream flow currently appears to seep into the alluvium then reappear again further downstream in various areas. Based on a drill hole drilled at approximately NL-8, interbedded layers of clayey, silty, and fine sand bedrock are present below approximately 13-feet of alluvium. It appears that the flow may be seeping through the alluvium until contacting the next impermeable layer. Comparing the monthly flow monitoring from 2009 to 2010 from NL-9 to NL-5, the data suggests no water is being lost from the system and is reporting further downstream at NL-5.

We will continue to monitor the situation and report on the stream flow conditions. It is anticipated that future precipitation, whether this year or during future high flow conditions will naturally fill in any voids that may be causing the stream to go subsurface intermittently.

Let me know if you have any questions,

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