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OGMCOAL - 3rd Quarter Water Monitoring Reports for Willow Creek and Castle Gates Mines

From: April Abate
To: dware@foundationcoal.com
Date: 1/5/2010 4:33 PM
Subject: 3rd Quarter Water Monitoring Reports for Willow Creek and Castle Gates Mines
CC: OGMCOAL@utah.gov
Attachments: 0017.pdf; 0018.pdf; April Abate.vcf

Dennis,

Attached are your 3rd quarter 2009 reports for Willow Creek and Castle Gate. We are also in the process of reviewing the Ph. I Bond Release application for Crandall Canyon. You should be receiving our decision letter on that in the coming weeks.

Regards,

April

April A. Abate
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WATER QUALITY MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

December 23, 2009

TO: Internal File

THRU: James D. Smith, Permit Supervisor DS 12/30/09

FROM: April A. Abate, Environmental Scientist II AAA 12-28-2009

RE: 2009 Third Quarter Water Monitoring, Castle Gate Holding Company, Castle Gate Mine, C/007/0004-WQ09-3, Task ID #3374

The Castle Gate Mine is inactive, mostly reclaimed, and is awaiting appropriate conditions to apply for Phase II Bond Release.

Pertinent water monitoring requirement information is in the MRP in Sections 7.5-1 and 7.5-3, and table 7-16.

1. Was data submitted for all of the MRP required sites? YES ☒ NO ☐

Springs –

The Permittee is not required to monitor any springs at the Castle Gate Mine.

Streams –

The Permittee is required to sample four intermittent/ephemeral streams (B-11, B-12, B-28, B-45) for flow, and the laboratory parameters outlined in Table 7-16 each quarter.

The Permittee monitored all streams as required during this quarter on September 29, 2009; none were flowing.

Wells–

The Permittee is not required to monitor any wells at the Castle Gate Mine.

UPDES–

There are no active UPDES sites at the Castle Gate Mine.

2. Were all required parameters reported for each site? YES ☐ NO ☐

Not applicable. There was no flow at any of the four stream sites.

3. Were any irregularities found in the data? YES ☐ NO ☒

There was no flow at any of the four stream sites.

4. On what date does the MRP require a five-year re-sampling of baseline water data.

The MRP does not require a five-year re-sampling of baseline water data.

5. Based on your review, what further actions, if any, do you recommend?

No further actions are required at this time.

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WATER QUALITY MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

December 17, 2009

TO: Internal File

THRU: James D. Smith, Permit Supervisor JDS 12/21/09

FROM: April A. Abate, Environmental Scientist II GAA 12-17-2009

RE: 2009 Third Quarter Water Monitoring, Plateau Mining Corporation (PMC), Willow Creek Mine, C/007/0038-WQ09-03 Task ID #3397

The Willow Creek Mine is in reclamation. The mines have been closed and sealed. The disturbed areas around the portals have been regraded and seeded. The most recent surface operations took place in Willow Creek Canyon, about a mile from the junction between U.S. Highway 6 and State Highway 191. The reclaimed area in Crandall Canyon is also part of the Willow Creek permit area.

There are no ground water sites monitored during the reclamation phase.

1. Was data submitted for all of the MRP required sites? YES ☒ NO ☐

Under the reclamation plan, surface water monitoring is required for sites listed in Exhibit 7-3 and shown on Map 15.

Springs- There are no springs monitored during the reclamation phase.

Streams- There are six surface water-monitoring sites:
B3N (Willow Creek above power plant),
B-5 (Price River below processing plant above Willow Creek),
B-6 (Price River above coal processing plant),
B25 (Crandall Canyon Creek),
B26 (lower reach of Crandall Canyon)
B151 (Willow Creek – 3 miles above Willow Creek Mine)

The reclamation sampling water quality list is presented in Section 13, p. 28. Sampling is conducted quarterly. PMC tries to monitor the sites within a two week period from March 15th, June 10th, September 5th and November 30th to attempt to collect data that coincides with first thaw, spring high flow, end of summer low-flow

and last sample before freeze-up.

All required stream sampling locations were monitored for the quarter on September 30, 2009. No flow was reported from the Crandall Canyon sampling points (B25 and B26).

Wells- There are no operational monitoring wells.

UPDES- The mine has been reclaimed and as a result, there are no currently active Utah Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (UPDES) monitoring locations at the site.

2. Were all required parameters reported for each site? YES ☒ NO ☐

3. Were any irregularities found in the data? YES ☐ NO ☒

Surface water samples taken from Willow Creek (B3N) located above the power plant and sample B151 located further upstream both exhibited elevated levels of sodium, potassium, sulfate and chloride then the previous two quarters. This could be an indication of salts from the roads during winter entering the stream channel.

Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) is a recognized pollutant for the Price River Watershed. TDS standards for this section of the Price River Watershed are set at 1,700 mg/L based on the Utah Administrative Code Rule R317-2. Stream samples collected continue to remain well below this standard.

4. On what date does the MRP require a five-year resampling of baseline water data.

Baseline data were collected at the beginning of mining operations for a two-year period; however routine 5-year sampling is not specified in MRP. The Division recommends baseline water quality parameter sampling at each five-year renewal period.

5. Based on your review, what further actions, if any, do you recommend?

None.