



State of Utah

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August 23, 2005

(HAND DELIVERED)

Mr. Gary Gray, Engineer
West Ridge Resources, Inc.
P.O. Box 1077
Price, Utah 84501

Dear Mr. Gray:

Subject: UPDES Permit No. UTG040023 - West Ridge Mine

We have received your application for an individual Utah Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (UPDES) Permit for the above referenced facility. At this time, the application appears to be complete and we are developing the appropriate conditions. However, should questions arise I will be in contact to resolve any outstanding issues or concerns. Please keep in mind that the conditions of your existing general permit referenced above remain in full force and effect until the issuance of an individual UPDES permit.

As we previously discussed, the Utah Division of Water Quality (DWQ) has several options for development of a Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) discharge limit for your facility. Listed below are the options you have for consideration in the development of the TDS discharge limit for your individual UPDES Permit. Please provide a written response by September 16, 2005 as to the option(s) you will be pursuing. We will then prepare the Statement of Basis and draft permit as soon as possible for the 30-day public notice.

UPDES Effluent Limitation Options for TDS in tons/day

1. No-salt (TDS) return whenever practical.
2. If not practical, limit discharge to one ton per day or 366 tons per year, whichever is less.
3. If the permittee cannot achieve 1 or 2 above, they can complete an

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Wayne

intercepted groundwater study for consideration of a "no-salt waiver."

4. In addition, the permittee may complete an economic analysis as outlined in the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum Policies.
5. Another option is keeping the concentration at 500 mg/L or less and no tons/day limits will be required through a "fresh-water waiver."
6. Funding and/or implementing a downstream salinity-offset project to remove the appropriate amount of TDS tonnage discharged if the permittee cannot do options 1-5 above.

As you may recall, during the last inspection by DWQ personnel on June 30, 2005, it was discovered that your facility has been exceeding the 1-ton/day TDS discharge limit since January 2005. At that time you expressed interest in applying for an individual UPDES permit including provisions for maintaining compliance with the TDS discharge limits through salinity-offset projects. Although your responses since that time have been adequate, the DWQ reserves the right to pursue an enforcement action for the months that your facility has been out of compliance and the DWQ was not notified of the TDS exceedences as required in your UPDES permit. The DWQ appreciates your continued efforts to return the West Ridge Mine facility to full compliance through the provisions of an individual UPDES permit.

As the permit coordinator assigned to your facility, please feel free to contact me at any time when you need assistance. I look forward to working with you and others at your facility in the near future. If you have any questions, please contact me at (801) 538-6779 or by e-mail at jstudenka@utah.gov.

Sincerely,



Jeff Studenka, Environmental Scientist
Permits & Compliance Section

cc: Darcy O'Connor, EPA Region VIII
Claron Bjork, SE District Health Department
Dave Ariotti, SE District Engineer
Pam Grubaugh-Littig, Division of Oil Gas & Mining