

WATER QUALITY MEMORANDUM

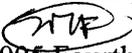
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Utah Coal Regulatory Program

September 7, 2006

TO: Internal File

THRU: Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, Permit Supervisor 

FROM: Steve Fluke, Reclamation Hydrogeologist 

RE: 2005 Fourth Quarter Water Monitoring, West Ridge Resources, West Ridge Mine, C007/0041-WQ05-4, Task ID #2867

1. Was data submitted for all required monitoring sites? YES [X] NO []

The West Ridge Mine is currently operational. Water monitoring data is evaluated from the data that is submitted quarterly by the mine to the Division EDI database. Water monitoring protocols, and surface, groundwater and monitoring wells, and UPDES sample parameters are outlined in the mine's MRP on Tables 7-1, 7-2, 7-3, and 7-4, respectively.

Surface *Operational sampling is required quarterly for eight stream monitoring sites (ST-3, ST-8, ST-9, ST-10, ST-11, ST-12, ST-13, and ST-15). Sites ST-11, ST-12 and ST-15 have been added and site ST-4 has been replaced by ST-13 last quarter for the SITLA lease area. There are four stream monitoring sites (ST-5, ST-6, ST-6A, and ST-7) that are equipped with automatic samplers that are required to be checked following precipitation events.*

All surface monitoring sites were sampled and data submitted for the 2005 fourth quarter monitoring.

Groundwater and Wells *Operational sampling is required quarterly for ten spring monitoring sites (SP-12, SP-13, SP-15, WR-1, WR-2, SP-16, SP-8, S-80, SP-101, and SP-102) and one groundwater monitoring well site (DH 86-2). Sites SP-101 and SP-102 have been added last quarter for the SITLA lease area.*

All groundwater and well monitoring sites were sampled and data submitted for the 2005 fourth quarter monitoring.

UPDES *Operational sampling is required monthly for two active UPDES sites (D001 and D002).*

All UPDES sites were sampled and data submitted for the 2005 fourth quarter monitoring.

2. Were all required parameters reported for each site? YES [X] NO []

Surface All required parameters were reported.

Groundwater and Wells All required parameters were reported with the following exception:

SP-15 – No laboratory sample was collected due to low flow.

UPDES All required parameters were reported.

3. Were any irregularities found in the data? YES [X] NO []

Surface No irregularities were found in the data.

Groundwater and Wells No irregularities were found in the data with the following exceptions:

SP-8 – Dissolved magnesium and total hardness were reported above two standard deviations. Continue monitoring for trends.

WR-2 – Dissolved sodium was reported above two standard deviations. This site has no prior history of elevated constituent concentrations. Continue monitoring for trends.

UPDES No irregularities were found in the data with the following exceptions:

D002 – The calculated TDS for the mine water discharge exceeds the maximum limit of 2,000 lbs/day for October, November, and December.

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

Five-year baseline resampling is to occur at the time of the mid-term review. The next baseline resampling should be conducted by October 1, 2006.

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

Surface Continue discussions with the Permittee and mine hydrologist regarding whether the automatic sampling method for some of the stream sites can be improved upon.

