

WATER QUALITY MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

October 19, 2006

TO: Internal File

THRU: Wayne Hedberg, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Steve Fluke, Reclamation Hydrogeologist

RE: 2006 First Quarter Water Monitoring, West Ridge Resources, West Ridge Mine, C007/0041-WQ06-1, Task ID #2868

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 six stream monitoring sites (ST-3, ST-8, ST-9, ST-10, ST-13, and ST-15). Four sites (ST-5, ST-6, ST-6A, and ST-7) are equipped with automatic samplers that are required to be checked following precipitation events. One stream monitoring site (ST-11) is monitored monthly from May through September, and one site (ST-12) is monitored once in May and once in September.*

With the exception of sites ST-3, ST-9, ST-10, and ST-15, which could not be accessed due to snow, all surface monitoring sites were sampled and data submitted for the 2006 first 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).*

Only one spring site (SP-16) could be accessed, but it could not be sampled due to low flow. The well was sampled and data was submitted for the 2006 first quarter monitoring.

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.

Groundwater and Wells None.

UPDES An updated UPDES permit is being issued by Utah DWQ to address the increased TDS concentrations and the inclusion of the mine in the salinity offset program.

6. Does the Mine Operator need to submit more information to fulfill this quarter's monitoring requirements? YES [] NO [X]

7. Follow-up from last quarter, if necessary. Did the Mine Operator submit or provide an explanation for missing and/or irregular data?

The mine is pursuing a new UPDES permit and the possibility of joining the salinity offset program.