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UTAH OGM COAL PROGRAM MEETING NOTES

Date: May 10, 2007
Time: 10:00 am to 12:30 pm
Location: West Ridge Resources

To: Internal File, West Ridge Mine, C/007/0041,
Total Iron Exceedance in Mine Discharge (UPDES 002)

From: Steve Fluke, Hydrogeologist **SMP**

Attendees: Dave Shaver (West Ridge Resources)
Dave Hibbs (West Ridge Resources), (present 2nd half of meeting)
Karla Knoop (JBR Environmental)
Jeff Studenka (Utah DWQ)
Steve Fluke (Utah DOGM)

Purpose: Discuss total iron concentrations in mine water discharge, actions to be taken by Utah DWQ, and potential solutions.

MEETING SUMMARY:

Dave and Karla presented background information and sampling results showing total iron (T-Fe) concentrations in the mine water discharge exceeding the UPDES limit of 1.3 mg/L. Samples collected in the mine indicate that the T-Fe concentrations are natural and have been identified in several locations. Jeff stated that the mine has been placed on the EPA's quarterly non-compliance report (QNCR) for the first quarter 2007, and because of continued exceedance in April, criteria have been met for a technical review criteria violation (TRC violation) and a chronic violation. The DWQ will have to issue an NOV. No indication could be given regarding the NOV fine and conditions, which are to be evaluated by DWQ.

We discussed possible solutions such as filtering, settlement ponds, moving the UPDES location down the discharge drainage. All present some problems and/or could be costly. Jeff stated that the best course of action for the mine is to demonstrate good faith and keep trying different solutions. I informed Dave Shaver and Dave Hibbs that the Division's role will be to stay informed with the process and that DWQ will be the lead agency per our MOU.

ACTION ITEMS: (Include item, timeline, and responsible person.)

West Ridge Resources will continue to sample discharge and explore potential solutions. DWQ will likely be issuing an NOV soon. Jeff will discuss with DWQ personnel the possibility of using the 'C' Canyon drainage, or a nearby ditch, as a possible treatment run while moving the UPDES point downstream.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: (This section is intended to provide attendees the opportunity to contribute additional and significant information concerning the meeting content that may not have been mentioned during the meeting.)

From Karla Knoop:

We also discussed possible administrative ways to change the permit limit such as variances or intake water credits. While neither of these appears to be allowed for an industrial discharge, there may be a possibility to look again at the waste load allocation (WLA) that was used to derive the limit. Jeff will pursue this. It may also be possible to look at reopening the TMDL that was completed for the Price River watershed; West Ridge will make some initial inquiries about this subject.

No other additional comments from attendees. [smf]

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