

# WATER QUALITY MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

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March 4, 2020

TO: Internal File

THRU: Steve Christensen, Coal Program Manager 

FROM: Amanda Daniels, Environmental Scientist 

RE: 2019 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Water Monitoring, Consolidation Coal Company, Hidden Valley Mine, C0150007, WQ19-3, Task ID #6032

The Hidden Valley Mine is in reclamation. At present, the Permittee has no immediate plans for additional coal mining activity at the site. Two surface-water monitoring sites are established to monitor Ivie Creek, a perennial stream adjacent to the mine site. The sites; Upper Ivie #1, and Lower Ivie #2, have been established to quantify any changes in quality or quantity to the Ivie Creek drainage as a result of coal mining related activity. Due to the lack of springs in the area and the lack of underground development/activity, no ground water monitoring is required at this time by the approved Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP).

Section UMC 817.52 of the approved MRP discusses the water-monitoring plan. The two surface monitoring sites will be sampled and measured during the months of May and September (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters only). Field parameters will be measured and water samples collected at the same time. Parameters for water analysis are listed in section UMC817.52 of the MRP. There are no springs, ponds or wells on the site. The monitoring program will continue until bond release is obtained.

The Utah Division of Water Quality (DWQ) has assigned use classifications to Ivie Creek and its tributaries from the confluence with Muddy Creek to Utah highway 10. The classifications are:

- 2B: Protected for secondary contact recreation such as boating, wading or similar uses.
- 3C: Protected for non-game fish and other aquatic life, including necessary aquatic organisms in their food chain.
- 4: Protected for agricultural uses including irrigation of crops and stock watering.

Numeric criteria set forth in Utah Administrative Code (UAC) R317-14, have been established for each of the beneficial use classes assigned to waters in the State. Of the use classifications assigned to the streams in the Western Colorado River Watershed (WCRW), numeric criteria for TDS only apply for agricultural use (beneficial use class 4). Section R317-2 of the UAC identifies a standard TDS value of 2,600 mg/L for Ivie Creek and its tributaries. The

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primary factors for increased TDS loads in the lower reaches of the Muddy Creek Watershed are from agricultural irrigation practices, surface runoff and natural geological loadings.

**1. Was data submitted for all of required sites?**

**Streams**      YES  NO

All sites reported no flow this quarter.

**2. Were all required parameters reported for each site?**

**Streams**      YES  NO

**3. Were irregularities found in the data?**

**Streams**      YES  NO  NA

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

The approved MRP does not outline a five-year baseline re-sampling requirement.

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

NA

**Does the Mine Operator need to submit more information to fulfill this quarter's monitoring requirements?**

YES     NO

**6. Follow-up from last quarter, if necessary. Did the Mine Operator submit all the missing and/or irregular data (datum)?**

NA.