

WATER QUALITY MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

March 31, 2016

TO: Internal File

THRU: Steve Christensen, Permit Supervisor 

FROM: Keenan Storrar, Hydrologist 

RE: Third Quarter 2015 Water Monitoring, Bowie, Fossil Rock Mine, C/015/0009, Task ID #5007

The Fossil Rock Mine, formerly the Trail Mountain Mine, is currently idle. Task #4716 Reduction of Water Monitoring dropped a number of monitored sites. The task also updated the Water Monitoring Program table found in Appendix 7-1 of the APPENDICIES.pdf within the Trail Mountain MRP. The Deer Creek Mine Task #4782 'Transfer Well Monitoring' transferred monitoring wells CCCW – 1A, CCCW – 1S, CCCW – 2A, CCCW – 3A, CCCW – 3U, CCCW – 3L from the Deer Creek MRP to the Trail Mountain MRP. These wells having an 'A' following the well numbers are screened in Cottonwood Canyon Creek alluvium. Well CCCW-1A is down gradient from the Roans Canyon fault while the other two are up gradient of the fault that bisects Cottonwood Canyon. It will be necessary to monitor these wells as the Cottonwood Tract of Trail Mountain is actively mined (see Task #4762 for background). A significant drop in water level of CCCW-1A and a subsequent uptick mine dewatering may indicate the mine is draining this fault zone.

The Fossil Rock Waste Rock site well has been added to the monitoring database. This well and monitoring information still needs to be incorporated into the MRP.

1. Were data submitted for all of the MRP required sites?

In-mine YES NO

The mine is sealed, so there is no monitoring of underground or in-mine water.

Springs YES NO

The Permittee monitors springs 17-25-1 (T-14) and 17-26-4 (T-10) for operational and field parameters in July and October and field parameters in August and September.

There was no flow at these springs in Q3 2015.

Streams YES NO

The Permittee monitors SW-1, SW-2 and SW-3 in Cottonwood Canyon for flow only during the first two months of each quarter and for operational parameters during the last month of each quarter.

UPDES YES NO

There was no reported discharge from the two UPDES points during Q3 2015. The mine was sealed in June 2001 and there has been no reported discharge at UPDES UT23728-002 (the mine-water discharge

into Cottonwood Creek) since May 2001.

Wells YES NO

TM-1B is monitored for water level monthly and for operational parameters quarterly (Figure 1). Since July 2004, the water level in TM-3 has been reported as piezometric head above the well casing by measuring the pressure on top of the sealed wellhead with a gauge (Figure 2). CCCW – 1A, CCCW – 1S, CCCW – 2A, CCCW – 3A, CCCW – 3U, CCCW – 3L are monitored for water level only (Figure 3 shows alluvial wells).

2. Were all required parameters reported for each site?

Springs YES NO

Streams YES NO

UPDES YES NO

Wells YES NO

3. Were any irregularities found in the data?

Listed parameters were outside two standard deviations.

Springs YES NO

Streams YES NO

UPDES YES NO

Wells YES NO

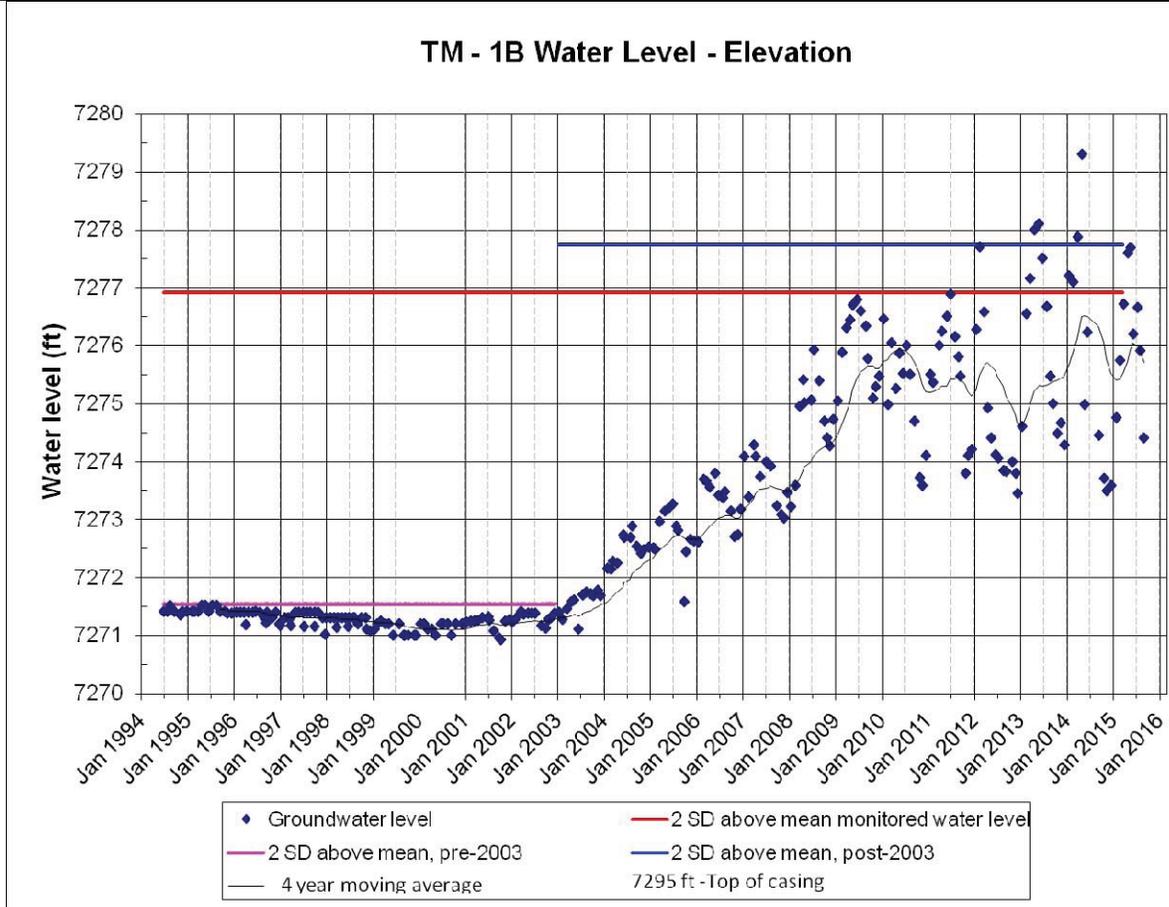


Figure 1. The water level in TM-1B has been rising since mine dewatering ceased in May 2001. It's difficult to say where this value will come to rest. This water level is probably connected with the mine pool filling the mine voids.

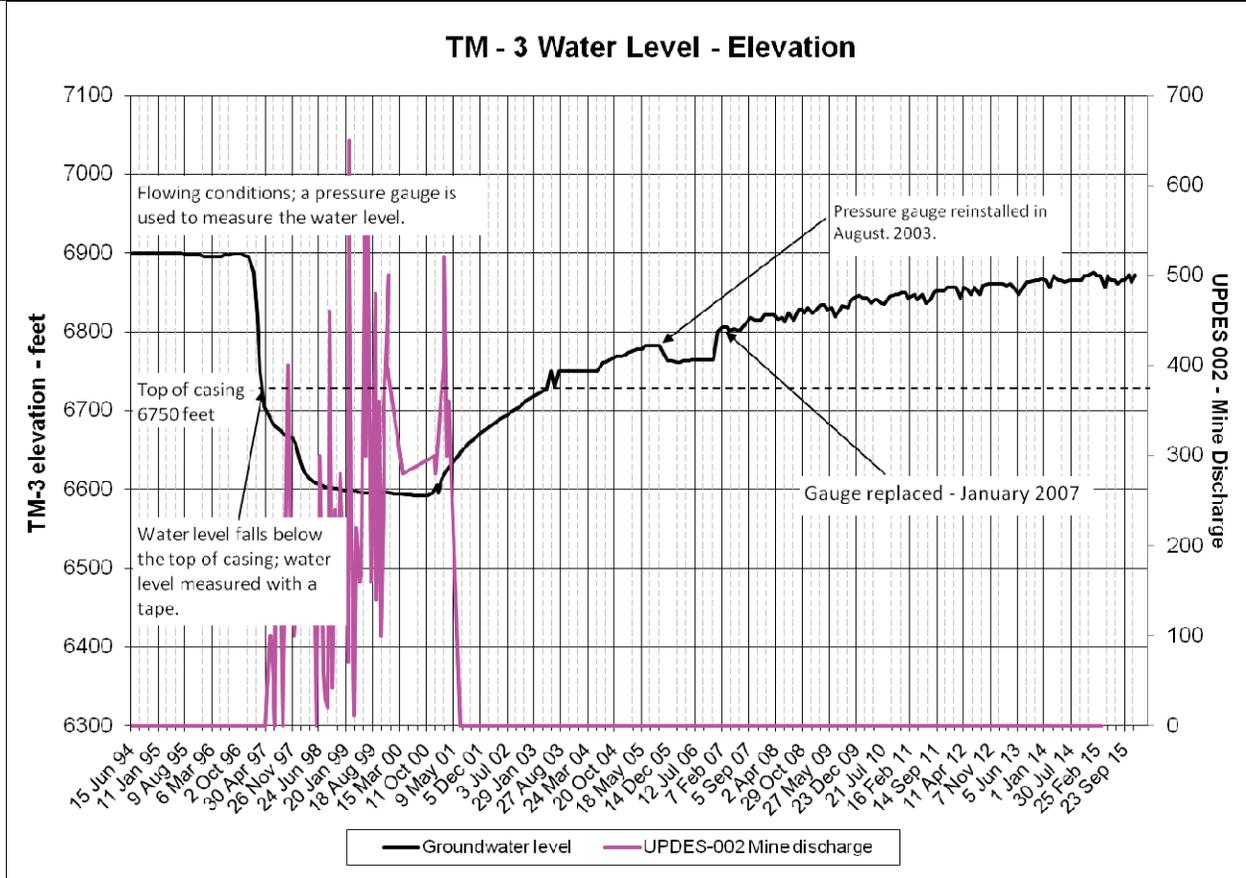


Figure 2. TM-3 water elevation peaked in June 2005, remained steady through October, dropped 18.5 ft in November and December 2005 and remained virtually unchanged during 2006. The pressure gauge was replaced in January 2007 and values jumped to approximately match the pre-2006 curve. During the first half of 2007 the curve was relatively flat, but it has been steadily climbing. The outgoing document Reduce Hydrologic Monitoring Sites, PacifiCorp, Deer Creek, C/015/0018, Task ID #4332 stipulates this well should not be released until 6,900 ft is reached.

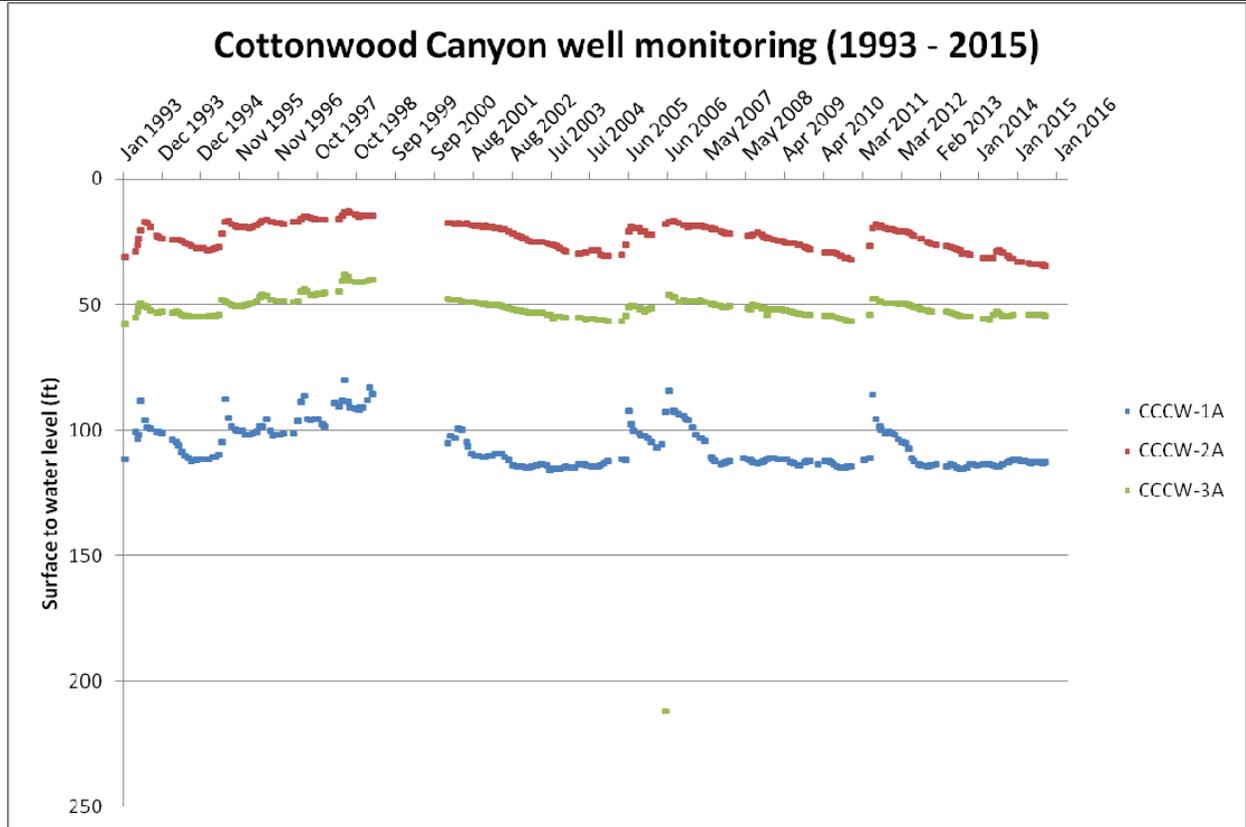


Figure 3. Alluvial aquifer water levels in the Cottonwood Canyon Creek monitoring wells. The drill hole data is found in Trail Mountain MRP Appendix C p. 23 (pdf p. 594).

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

Baseline analyses were performed in 2001, 2006, and 2011. Analyses for baseline parameters will be repeated every 5 years and will be conducted in 2016.

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

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

7. Follow-up from last quarter, if necessary. NA

8. Did the Mine Operator respond adequately to queries about missing or irregular data? YES NO NA

Note: The mine operator needs to submit Depth and WL for all well measurements.