

# WATER QUALITY MEMORANDUM

## Utah Coal Regulatory Program

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October 13, 2010

TO: Internal File

THRU: Jim Smith, Permit Supervisor *DS 19 Oct 2010*

FROM: Steve Christensen Environmental Scientist *SCC*

RE: 2009 2nd Quarter Water Monitoring, Consolidation Coal Company, LLC,  
Emery Deep Mine, C/015/0015, WQ09-2, Task ID #3331

The Emery Deep Mine is an active coalmine. The coal mining operation utilizes room and pillar mining techniques with the use of a continuous miner machine. The coal reserves are fully extracted (thus falling into the planned subsidence category).

The approved Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP) outlines the water monitoring requirements beginning on page VI-28. Table VI-17, *Emery Mine Hydrologic Monitoring Program* contains a comprehensive list of all groundwater (springs/seeps), surface water, groundwater monitoring wells and Utah Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (UPDES) outfalls. Plate VI-4, *Ground Water Monitoring Well and Surface Water Monitoring Site Location Map* depicts the locations of the various ground and surface water monitoring sites (including the UPDES discharge/outfall points).

**1. Was data submitted for all of the MRP required sites?** YES  NO

### *Springs*

*The MRP outlines the sampling of 5 springs within the permit and adjacent area. Flow and field parameters are sampled quarterly with water quality samples collected in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters.*

The Permittee submitted data for all required springs: SP-10, SP-11, SP-13, SP-14 and SP-15.

### *Streams*

*The MRP outlines the sampling of 8 surface water monitoring stations within the permit and adjacent area. Surface water monitoring site SWMS-1 is actively monitored; however, not listed in the MRP.*

The Permittee submitted data for all required stream sites.

### **Wells**

*The MRP outlines the sampling of 33 ground water monitoring wells within the permit and adjacent area. Of the 33 wells, 14 are monitored quarterly for water level only. The remaining 19 wells are sampled for water quality on a quarterly basis with the exception of wells RDA-1, RDA-2, RDA-3, RDA-4, RDA-5 and RDA-6 (sampled annually in the second quarter for both field parameters and water quality).*

*Six of the 33 well installations (AA, H, I, R2, T1 and T2)) contain clusters of casing completed to different depths within the underlying strata. Well AA contains four completions (AA-B, AA-L, AA-M and AA-U). Wells H and I contain four completions as well (H-B, H-L, H-M, H-U and I-B, I-L, I-M and I-U respectively). Well R2 contains three completions (R2-B, R2-M and R-U). Well T1 contains two completions (T1-B and T1-U). Well T2 contains two completions as well (T2-B and T2-U).*

The Permittee submitted data for all required wells.

### **UPDES**

*The Emery Deep Mine's UPDES Permit, #UT0022616, identifies 9 outfalls (001, 002, 003, 004, 005, 006, 007, 008 and 009). The discharges from each of the outfalls ultimately report to Quitchupah Creek, a tributary of Muddy Creek. The receiving waters are designated according to Utah Administrative Code (UAC) R317-2-13.1 as 2B, 3C and 4. Historically, only Outfalls 001 and 003 have ever recorded a discharge.*

The Water Quality Board for the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) has approved a rule change that would allow for a site specific, in-stream standard for the Emery Deep's effluent limitations. The modified standard will establish an allowable TDS concentration of 3,800 parts per million (ppm) and a 2,000-ppm concentration of sulfate. DWQ representatives have indicated that they are waiting for Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approval before the permit is modified from its current standard of 3,500-ppm.

DWQ has been in negotiations with the Permittee for several years regarding a modification to their existing UPDES permit. The Permittee has entered into a compliance schedule as allowed under the rules of the Clean Water Act to modify their permit. The compliance schedule would produce a site-specific standard for the Emery Deep UPDES permit.

- *2B-Protected for secondary contact recreation such as boating, wading or similar uses.*

- *3- Protected for nongame fish and other aquatic life, including the necessary aquatic organisms in their food chain.*
- *4- Protected for agricultural uses including irrigation of crops and stock watering.*

The Permittee submitted data for all required UPDES sites.

**2. Were all required parameters reported for each site?** YES  NO

All required parameters were reported for the stream, wells and UPDES monitoring points.

The five spring monitoring sites were reported as "frozen- no flow". As a result, water quality samples were not obtainable.

**3. Were any irregularities found in the data?** YES  NO

#### ***UPDES Sites***

Historically outfalls 002, 004, 005, 006, 007, 008 and 009 do not produce a discharge. These outfalls did not report a flow for this quarter.

Outfalls 001 and 003 are the primary outlets for discharging the ground water encountered within the mine works. Outfalls 001 and 003 reported discharges for this quarter.

As outlined in the Permittee's Utah Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit (UPDES), the effluent limitation for Total Dissolved Solids is 3,500-ppm. However, the reported TDS values for outfalls 001 and 003 have exceeded that limit for several years.

Outfall 001 averaged a discharge of 59.9 gpm. The reported TDS values for Outfall 001 exceeded the 3,500 ppm effluent limitation from four different sampling events. The average TDS value for the quarter is 4,517 ppm.

Outfall 003 reported an average discharge of 416 gpm. The previous quarter's discharge values were exceedingly low (with an average flow below 1 gpm). Outfall 003 again reported elevated TDS concentrations with an average value of 4,517.75 ppm.

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

There is no commitment in the MRP to resample for baseline parameters.

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

Continue to monitor the compliance schedule process currently underway between the Permittee and DWQ.

Follow up with Permittee regarding the missing water quality data and work to ensure that the approved water monitoring plan is now being adhered to.

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

The Operator does not need to submit more information to fulfill this quarter's monitoring requirements. However; there is still outstanding data from previous quarters that the Operator is currently working to address.

Spring water quality data was not for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2008. Additionally, water quality data was not submitted for monitoring wells T1-B, TP-U and USGS 4-1 in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2008. Water quality data was not submitted for the Kemmerer water monitoring well for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2009.

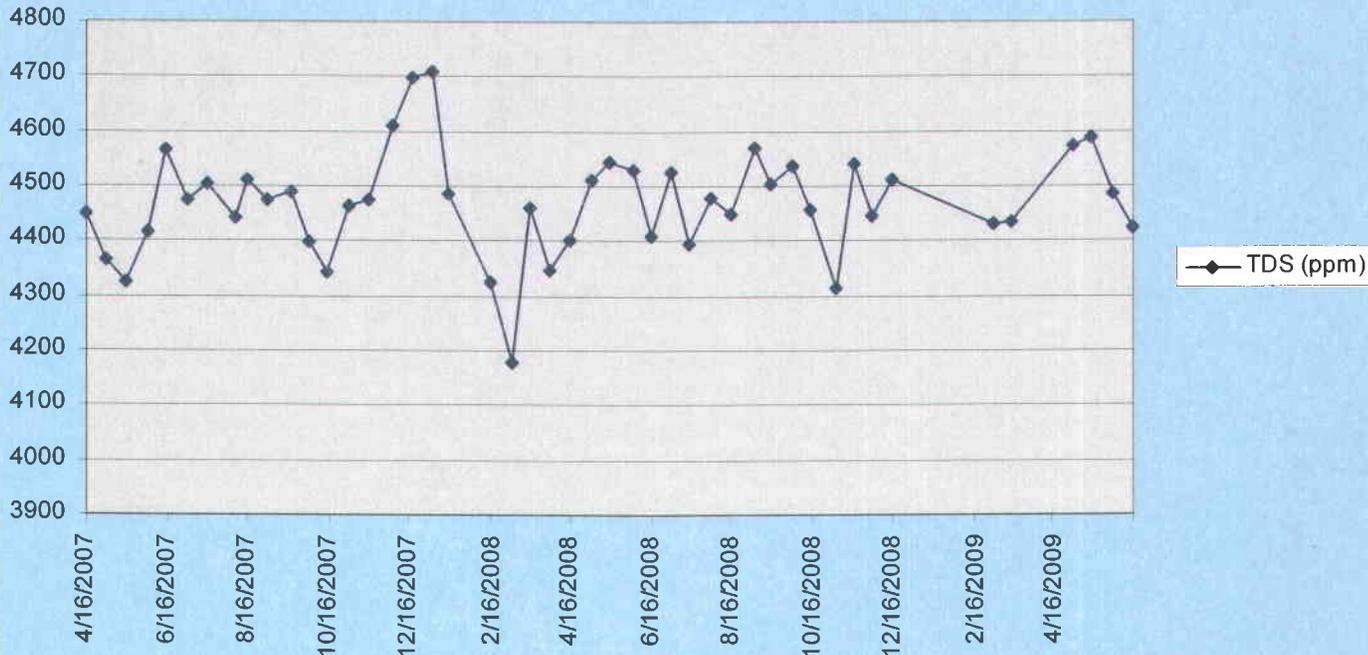
**7. Follow-up from last quarter, if necessary.**

Work with Permittee in inputting missing data into the EDI and work to insure that the Permittee understands the water monitoring requirements as outlined in the approved Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP).

**8. Did the Mine Operator submit all the missing and/or irregular data?**

No.

### UPDES Outfall 001



### UPDES Outfall 003

