



State of Utah

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Department of
Environmental Quality

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DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
Erica Brown Gaddis, PhD
Director

VIA EMAIL

READ RECEIPT REQUESTED

October 8, 2020

Dennis Oakley, Senior Mine Engineer
PacifiCorp – Thermal Generation Environmental Services
North Temple Office
1407 West North Temple, Suite 210
Salt Lake City, UT 84116

Subject: Reconnaissance Inspection for the Reclaimed Deer Creek Mine Site
UPDES Permit No. UT0023604

Dear Mr. Oakley:

Enclosed for your records are the results of the recent reconnaissance inspection conducted by the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) for the above referenced facility. The inspection was conducted since DWQ was already on site for the meeting with you and DOGM. No deficiencies were observed during the inspection and no formal response is required at this time.

Thank you for your continued efforts regarding permit compliance and in helping to protect Utah's Water Quality. If you have any questions, please contact me at jstudenka@utah.gov or (801) 536-4395.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Studenka (Oct 7, 2020 16:29 MDT)

Jeff Studenka, Permit Facilitator
UPDES Surface Water Section

JAS/DH/cjh

Enclosures: Inspection Report w/ Photos (DWQ-2020-020247)

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Dennis Oakley, Senior Mine Engineer
PacifiCorp – Thermal Generation Environmental Services

cc: Orion Rogers, Southeast Utah Health Department
Russell Seeley DEQ District Engineer
Steve Christensen, DOGM Coal Permit Manager

DWQ-2020-020245
File: UPDES Section 6

INSPECTION PROTOCOL

UPDES Permit #: UT0023604 – Deer Creek Mine Reclamation Site
Inspection Type: Reconnaissance Inspection (RI)
Inspection Dates: September 24 and October 1, 2020
Weather Conditions: Sunny and mild, ~70°F (on site)

Jeff Studenka of the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) met with Dennis Oakley representing the PacifiCorp Deer Creek Mine facility (DCM), as well as several DOGM representatives. The purpose of the site visit and the onsite groundwater issues were discussed followed by a walking tour of the reclaimed DCM facility. There were no deficiencies noted from the previous DWQ inspection for follow up (July 31, 2019 RI). The current UPDES permit was issued effective 2-1-2020 and will expire 1-31-2025.

FACILITY DESCRIPTION

Location: ~9 miles Northwest of Huntington, Utah off Hwy 10.

Coordinates: Outfall 002 - 39° 21' 29" N latitude, -111° 06' 57" W longitude
Outfall 003 - 39° 23' 23" N latitude, -111° 05' 23" W longitude

Flows: No flows from Outfall 002 or 003 since the mine closed in 2015.

Receiving waters: Outfall 002 discharges to Deer Creek → Huntington Creek. Outfall 003 discharges directly to Huntington Creek if needed.

Site Conditions: The DCM facility completed final reclamation in late 2019. DCM ceased coal production in January 2015 and the portals were sealed later that year. Outfall 002 is configured via a pipeline from the DCM portals to discharge any mine water directly into Deer Creek. There have been no discharges from Outfall 002 since the mine closed in 2015. To handle discharges from the Rilda Canyon portal, a pipeline was built from Rilda Canyon to the raw water pond at the Huntington Power Plant. The pipeline was completed in late 2017. From the raw water pond the discharge would be consumptively used as cooling water at the plant, and no discharge to surface waters of the State would occur. However, if the power plant ceases operation or chooses not to utilize the mine water, then the water would be diverted to Outfall 003 as authorized in the permit. There have been no discharges to date from Outfall 003.

Earlier this year, water was observed flowing on and through the reclaimed DCM site and was investigated further to discover an old unknown plugged culvert was the culprit. The culvert was exposed and will be reconnected so that future groundwater/precipitation runoff flows will not further compromise the reclaimed DCM site. The water was initially monitored by DCM and believed not to be mine related water as detailed in their letter to DWQ dated September 21, 2020.

INSPECTION SUMMARY

DWQ arrived on site by 10:00 am on September 24, 2020 to meet with Dennis Oakley and DOGM personnel to discuss and observe groundwater issues at the reclaimed mine site followed by a site walk of the reclamation and project activity areas. The outfall locations (002 and 003) were separately observed as well as the receiving waters of Deer Creek and Huntington Creek. Outfalls 002 & 003 were not discharging and there was no evidence of any prior discharges. Site photos were collected and included herein. DWQ was on site from approximately 10:00 am to 12:30 pm. Permit requirements, NetDMR submittals and compliance status were reviewed remotely at DWQ offices on October 1, 2020 to complete the RI activities. There were no deficiencies or other issues identified with respect to UPDES Permit No. UT0023604.

DEFICIENCIES OBSERVED

None.

CORRECTIVE ACTION REQUIREMENTS

None.

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. As we discussed on site, followed up by the DWQ response letter dated September 29, 2020, any off site project dewatering at the site not already permitted through UPDES Permit No. UT0023604, would require a separate UPDES Permit for Construction Dewatering (UTG070000).
2. In addition, if the culvert water project will disturb an acre or more of land, then you would also be required to obtain a UPDES Permit for Construction Storm Water (UTRC00000) to manage runoff during the project activities. Both additional permits can be obtained anytime online from DWQ's website as discussed and provided previously.
3. Please keep DWQ informed of site activities in regards to the UPDES Permits as required.

PHOTO LOG

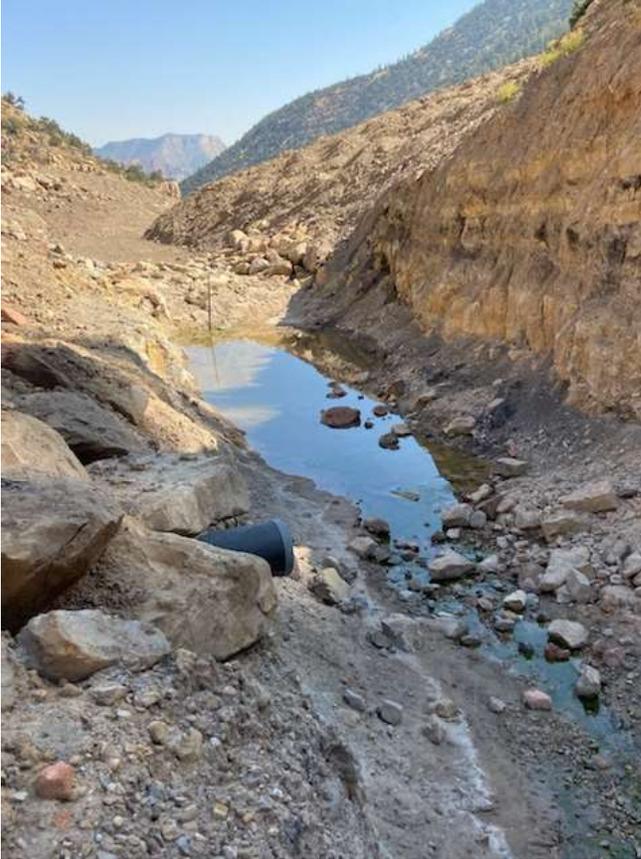
1. Former Deer Creek Mine reclamation site entrance.



2. Deer Creek Mine reclamation site looking north from Outfall 002 area.



3. Outfall 002 at reclamation site into Deer Creek drainage.
Standing water is from cliffside groundwater seeps.



4. Reclaimed sedimentation pond area (former Outfall 001).



5. Old culvert exposed, source of onsite nuisance water (flow had recently eased).



6: Outfall 003 (black pipe sticking out of rocks) and receiving waters of Huntington Creek.

