

WATER QUALITY MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

June 25, 2020

TO: Internal File

THRU: Steve Christensen, Environmental Manager 

FROM: Kendra Hinton, Environmental Scientist 

RE: 4th Quarter 2019 Water Monitoring, PacifiCorp, Deer Creek Mine.
C/015/0018, Task ID #6103

The Deer Creek Mine monitoring plan is in Volume 9 Appendix A-1 of the MRP. The mine closed January 2015 and actively reclaiming. The Permittee has installed a pipeline from the Rilda Right portals down to the raw water holding pond for Huntington Power Plant. All gravity drainage mine-water will be routed in this pipe from the Rilda Right portals to the Power Plant.

The water monitoring program was reduced in Fall 2018 after three years post-mining monitoring under Task #5770. Pre- and post-mining flow rates of springs and streams and groundwater depths were compared against the regional climatic trends to determine if mining had impacted these resources. After analyzing each site selected for removal from the water monitoring program it appears mining activities did not impact the hydrologic balance.

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

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

Streams YES NO

UPDES YES NO

3. Were any irregularities found in the data down gradient of mine workings?

Streams YES NO

UPDES YES NO

Mine water discharge at the Deer Creek portals UPDES outfall has ceased. Mine pools are developing in the Southern Deer Creek workings and the Mill Fork area workings. Once these areas fill to capacity they may gravity discharge at the Deer Creek and Rilda Right portals, respectively. DEQ revised the UPDES permit to adjust the outfalls for the site, as the sediment pond has been removed and to allow for discharge from the Rilda pipeline to Huntington Creek if there is compliant discharge. Outfall 001 has been removed from the existing permit.

Wells YES NO

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

Baseline analyses were performed in 2001, 2006, 2011, and 2016, repeating every 5 years. The next baseline analyses will be conducted in 2021.

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

All water quantity volumes and quality parameters are within reasonable ranges. No further action is recommended at this time.

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.

None.

8. Did the Mine Operator submit all the missing and/or irregular data (datum)?

NA.