



State of Utah

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Department of
Environmental Quality

L. Scott Baird
Interim Executive Director

DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
Erica Brown Gaddis, PhD
Director

August 8, 2019

Mr. Ken Fleck, Manager
Geology and Environmental Affairs
PacifiCorp - Interwest Mining Company
PO Box 310
15 North Main Street
Huntington, UT 84528
Via Email

Subject: Reconnaissance Inspections for UPDES Permit Nos. **UT0022896 - Cottonwood/Wilberg Mine & UT0023604 – Deer Creek Mine**

Dear Mr. Fleck:

Enclosed for your records are the results of the inspections conducted by the Division of Water Quality on July 31, 2019 for the above referenced facilities. No deficiencies were observed and no response is required at this time.

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

Sincerely,

Jeff Studenka, Environmental Scientist
UPDES Surface Water Section

JAS/blj

Enclosures (2): 1. Cottonwood Mine Inspection Report with photos (DWQ-2019-009343)
2. Deer Creek Mine Inspection Report with photos (DWQ-2019-009355)

Cc: Via Email w/Enclosures
Orion Rogers, Southeast Utah Health Department
Scott Hacking, DEQ District Engineer
Steve Christensen, DOGM

DWQ-2019-009346
DWQ FILE:UPDES Section 6

INSPECTION PROTOCOL

UPDES Permit #: UT0022896
Inspection Type: Reconnaissance Inspection
Inspection Date: July 31, 2019
Weather Conditions: Cloudy, mild with light rain, ~70°F

Jeff Studenka of the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) met with Ken Fleck and Brett Shakespeare of PacifiCorp's Interwest Mining Co. - Cottonwood/Wilberg Mine. The purpose and scope of the inspection were discussed and a facility tour was conducted. The UPDES permit was recently re-issued effective 5-1-2019. There were no deficiencies noted from the previous inspection for follow up (8-23-2017 RI).

FACILITY DESCRIPTION

Location: ~8 miles Northwest of Orangeville, Utah off HWY 29.

Coordinates: Outfall 001(mine water discharge) – 39° 19' 05" latitude, -111° 11' 19" longitude

Average Flow: 50-60 gpm since 2017 (~20 gpm previously for many years)

Receiving waters: Cottonwood Canyon Creek → Cottonwood Creek

Process: SIC code 1222 & NAICS # 212112 for bituminous underground coal mining. The mine has been closed for many years and the portals were sealed in 2001. However, mine water is still conveyed via gravity at an average rate of 50-60 gpm and is continuously discharged via Outfall 001 to Cottonwood Canyon Creek. This is the only discharge point remaining as final reclamation was completed in 2018, including the removal of the former sedimentation ponds and Outfall 003.

INSPECTION SUMMARY

Permit requirements and reclamation activities were reviewed at the Huntington office, which was followed by a facility tour. The outfall locations, both current (001) and former (003), were observed as well as the receiving waters of Cottonwood Canyon Creek. Outfall 001 was flowing clear and steady with no issues observed. Site photos were collected and included herein. The Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan was reviewed on site and determined to be adequate to meet the permit requirements, even though there are no remaining undisturbed areas on site that would discharge anything but storm water. DWQ was on site from approximately 10:20-11:30 am.

DEFICIENCIES

No deficiencies with respect to the UPDES permit were noted during the inspection.

REQUIREMENTS

None.

PHOTO LOG

1. Former gated entrance location to mine site, now reclaimed.



2. View of reclaimed mine site, former sed ponds and outfall 003.



3. Roadside location of discharging Outfall 001 in Cottonwood Canyon.



4. Receiving waters of Cottonwood Canyon Creek.



INSPECTION PROTOCOL

UPDES Permit #: UT0023604
Inspection Type: Reconnaissance Inspection (RI)
Inspection Date: July 31, 2019
Weather Conditions: Cloudy and mild with light rain, ~70°F

Jeff Studenka of the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) met with Ken Fleck and Brett Shakespeare representing the PacifiCorp Deer Creek Mine (DCM). The purpose and scope of the inspection were discussed and a full tour of the DCM facility was completed. There were no deficiencies noted from the previous inspection for follow up (August 2017 RI). The current UPDES permit, which was modified effective 12-1-2017 to include Outfall 003, is set to expire on its own accord January 31, 2020 as requested by DCM whom instead has submitted an NOI for coverage under the General Permit for Coal Mining Operations (UTG040000) to replace the current permit. DWQ will ensure that UPDES permit coverage will not lapse for the DCM facility as appropriate.

FACILITY DESCRIPTION

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

Coordinates: Outfall 001 – 39° 21' 26" N latitude, -111° 06' 35" W longitude
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 and a very low flow from the sedimentation pond (Outfall 001).

Receiving waters: For Outfalls 001 and 002, discharges are to Deer Creek → Huntington Creek. Outfall 003 will discharge directly to Huntington Creek if needed.

Process: SIC code 1222 & NAICS # 212112 for bituminous underground coal mining. The DCM facility is currently undergoing final reclamation. The Rilda Canyon portal area has been reclaimed and the Deer Creek areas are currently under reclamation and scheduled to be completed later this year. DCM ceased production in January 2015 and the portals were sealed later that year. 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.

INSPECTION SUMMARY

Permit requirements and reclamation activities were reviewed at the Huntington office, which was followed by a full facility tour in both Deer Creek and Rilda canyons. The three outfall

locations (001, 002, and 003) were observed as well as the receiving waters of Deer Creek and Huntington Creek. Outfall 001 from the existing sedimentation pond was slowly discharging <10 gpm and flowing clear with no issues observed. Outfalls 002 & 003 were not discharging and no evidence of any prior discharges. Site photos were collected and included herein. DWQ was on site from approximately 11:50 am to 1:35 pm.

DEFICIENCIES

No deficiencies were noted during the inspection.

REQUIREMENTS

None.

PHOTO LOG

1. Reclamation activities underway at former Deer Creek Mine site.



2. Reclamation activities looking up Deer Creek Canyon from Outfall 002 area.



3. Outfall 002 currently in place at reclamation site.



4. View of sedimentation pond (Outfall 001).



5. Outfall 001 discharging. Note the low flows from the v-notch weir.



6. Receiving waters of Deer Creek just below Outfall 001 (also SUM-A sample location).



7. Flow control vault for Rilda Canyon discharge pipeline.



8. Inside view of vault. Note manual valve for any future discharges via Outfall 003.



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



10. Rilda mine water currently discharging to onsite pond (~ 3gpm).



11. Discharge into Raw Water Pond onsite for consumptive use by power plant operations.



DWQ-2019-009355