

WATER QUALITY MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

March 29, 2016

TO: Internal File

THRU: Steve Christensen, Permit Supervisor



FROM: Amanda Daniels, Environmental Scientist



RE: Second Quarter of 2015 Water Monitoring, Genwal Resources, Inc., Crandall Canyon Mine, C/015/0032 Task ID #4912

Water monitoring requirements for the Crandall Canyon Mine can be found in Sections 7.31.21, *Ground Water Monitoring Plan* and 7.31.22, *Surface Water Monitoring Plan*. Additional information can be found in Tables 7-4, 7-5, 7-8, 7-9 and 7-10.

Water encountered during mining operations was pumped to the portals and discharged to Crandall Creek under UPDES Permit No. UTU0024368. Discharges to Crandall Creek were within the limitations established by the permit with rare exceptions. Prior to 2008 only one sample reported an iron concentration greater than 1 mg/L (July 26, 2004 -1.08 mg/L). UPDES Permit No. UTU002438 was renewed on May 1, 2011 with a total iron maximum daily effluent limitation of 1.24 mg/L.

Following the mine collapse in August 2007, the pumps were removed from the mine and discharge ceased temporarily. From September 2007 through December 2007 water pooled within the mine, flooding the underground workings. In January 2008 the mine began discharging by gravity flow and has been discharging continuously since. The temporary seals placed in the portals following the collapse required modification to control the mine water discharge. Iron concentrations in the mine water discharge occasionally exceeded 1 mg/L from January to November 2008; and have been greater than 1 mg/L continuously since December 2008. Construction of a mine water treatment system began in December 2009 and was approved by the Division in January of 2010.

Since April of 2010, the mine water treatment system has proven effective in reducing total iron concentrations to within the 1.24 mg/L UPDES limit. Additionally, the Permittee began sampling the pre-treatment raw mine water (Pre 002) in April of 2010. The sampling of the raw mine water is conducted in an effort to monitor changes in mine water chemistry that might indicate what (if any) changes are occurring to the iron concentrations.

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

Springs

The approved MRP requires the monitoring of 24 springs each quarter. Of these 24 springs, 9 require laboratory water quality analysis (See Table 7-4). The remaining 15 springs require quarterly monitoring of field parameters (flow, pH, specific conductance and temperature).

Streams

The approved MRP requires the monitoring of 12 surface water/stream sites. Of these 12 surface water/stream sites, 9 require laboratory water quality analysis (See Table 7-8). The remaining 3 sites require quarterly monitoring of field parameters (flow, pH, specific conductance, temperature and dissolved oxygen).

Wells

The approved MRP outlines monitoring of 7 in mine wells. According to Table 7-4, all 7 wells required quarterly laboratory water quality analysis. However, due to the mine disaster on August 6th, 2007, the active mine-workings have been sealed thus rendering the wells inaccessible.

UPDES

The UPDES Permit/MRP (UT000024368) requires monthly monitoring of 2 outfalls: 001 and 002. Outfall 001 is associated with the discharge from the primary sediment pond at the main mine facility. Outfall 002 is associated with the mine-water discharge that reports directly to Crandall Creek.

The required data was submitted for Outfalls 001 and 002.

Pre-Treatment Mine Water Discharge

As part of the permitting process for the mine-water treatment system (Appendix 7-65), the Permittee has committed to monthly sampling of the pre-treatment mine water discharge for the following parameters:

- Iron (total, dissolved and ferrous)
- Manganese (total and dissolved)
- Aluminum (total and dissolved)
- Alkalinity
- Sulfate
- pH
- Dissolved Oxygen

The required Monthly data was collected for the pre-treatment mine water discharge and submitted to the EDI.

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

Springs

All required parameters were reported for the surface water monitoring sites that were accessible and produced a measurable flow.

Streams

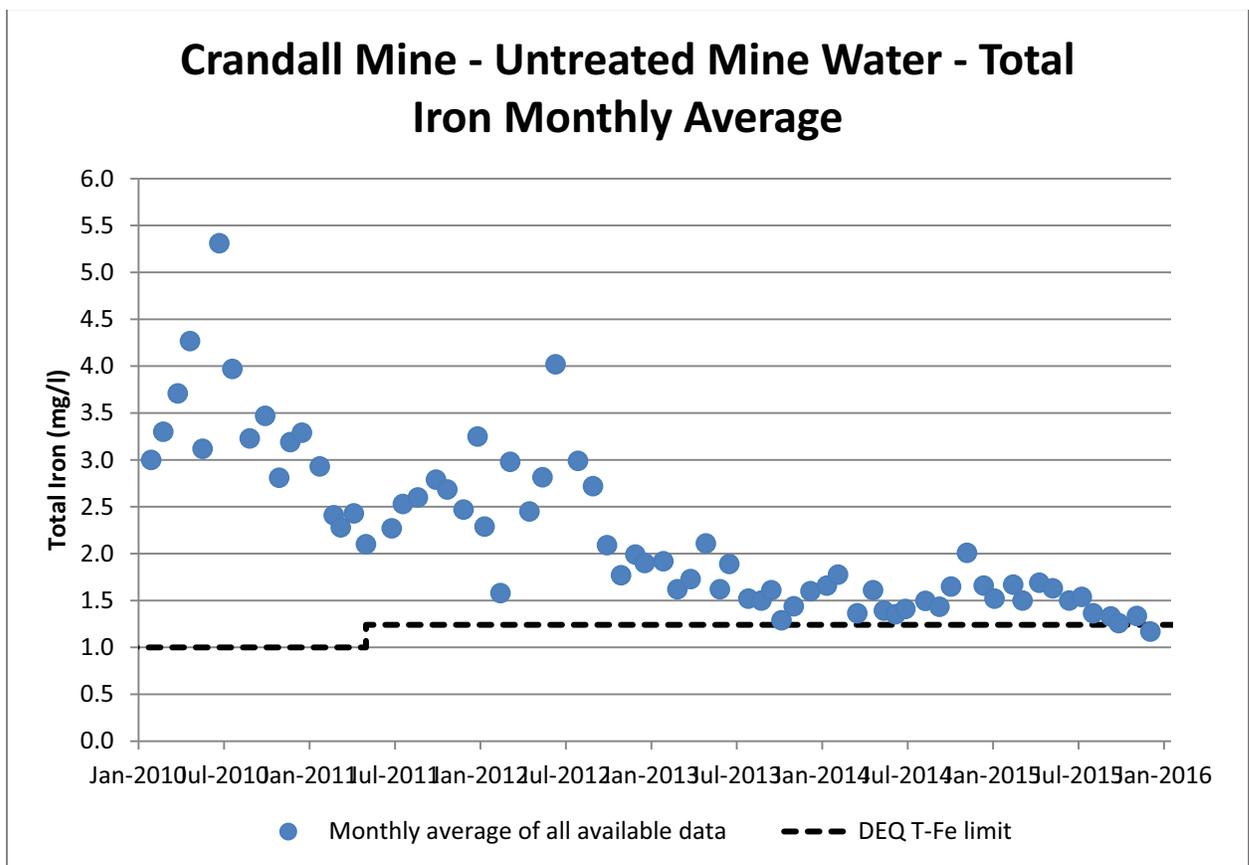
All required parameters were reported for the surface water monitoring sites that produced a measurable flow.

Wells

Based upon three sampling events, Outfall 002 reported an average flow value of 305 gpm. The total iron concentrations of the water discharging from the mine-water treatment basin were well within the 1.24 mg/L standard established by the UPDES permit. The mine-water treatment system continues to be effective in reducing the total iron concentrations to within the UPDES discharge permit limit of 1.24 mg/L.

Pre-Treatment Mine Water Discharge

The total iron concentrations in the pre-treatment mine water remains above the 1.24 mg/L UPDES limit. Based on three sampling events the resulting concentrations for total iron were 1.82, 1.63 and 1.52 mg/L. The data show that total iron concentration still remains variable but since January 2010 to June 2014 a downward trend occurred. Beginning in fall 2014 though, we have seen a greater variability of data, and a slight increasing trend. Beginning in early 2015 we have begun to see the data tighten up, but remain, on average, between 1.5 and 1.7. Residual polymer testing was conducted by SGS laboratory and determined a level of residual flocculent of 0.13 mg/L in April, 0.21 mg/L in May and non-detect in June. Below is a graph of the pretreatment total iron concentration shown as a monthly median since January 2010.



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

Page 7-33 of the MRP states that groundwater samples collected during the low flow period

(typically the 4th quarter) every 5 years will be analyzed for baseline parameters (See Tables 7-5). Baseline sampling was conducted this quarter. All required baseline parameters were reported for all ground and surface water monitoring points.

Page 7-35 of the MRP states that surface water samples collected during the low flow period every 5 years will be analyzed for baseline parameters (See Table 7-9). The Fourth Quarter of 2015 will be the next sampling event where baseline data will be required.

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

Continued data collection and monitoring of the mine-water discharge will be necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of the mine-water treatment system. Monitoring of the pre-treatment mine-water will help determine the overall chemistry of the raw mine-water and help determine if the total iron concentrations are showing any change in concentration. To this end it is critical to maintain on time submittal of the pretreatment and Outfall 002 sampling results to DOGM, as required by Appendix 7-65.