



United States Department of the Interior



GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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HYDROLOGY AND POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF MINING DETERMINED FOR TWO

COAL-LEASE TRACTS IN CENTRAL UTAH

The hydrology and effects of mining were determined for the Quitchupah and Pines coal-lease tracts in Sevier and Emery Counties, Utah. The lease tracts are near an active coal mine in the central Wasatch Plateau. Effects of mining observed at the active mine are considered indicative of the changes that can be expected during and after mining in the proposed lease tracts according to a report released by the U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior. The report is the result of a cooperative study with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

Susan Thiros, U.S. Geological Survey hydrologist and senior author of the report, said that subsidence related to longwall mining of coal in the Quitchupah and Pines coal-lease tracts could cause dewatering of perched aquifers, changes in natural drainage patterns, and alteration of both surface- and ground-water quality. However, Thiros noted that it is unlikely that the hydrologic effects of mining will substantially disrupt existing uses of water in the coal-lease tracts, although additional studies are needed to gain a better understanding of the hydrologic effects of underground mining in the area.

Copies of the report titled "Hydrology and potential effects of mining in the Quitchupah and Pines coal-lease tracts, central Utah," by S.A. Thiros and G.E. Cordy, have been released as U.S. Geological Survey Water-Resources Investigations Report 90-4084. Copies are available at the U.S. Geological Survey Water Resources Division, 1016 Administration Building, 1745 West 1700 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84104, the U.S. Geological Survey Earth Science Information Office, Room 8105 Federal Building, 125 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138, and U.S. Geological Survey Books and Open-File Reports Section, Denver Federal Center, Bldg. 810, Box 25425, Denver, Colorado 80225.

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