

**From:** Jeffrey Studenka  
**To:** Fluke, Steve; Grubaugh-Littig, Pam; Hedberg, Wayne  
**Date:** 10/18/2005 11:41:54 AM  
**Subject:** SUFCo Update

Greetings one and all,

I wanted to update everyone on the latest news from the folks at SUFCo Mine. I just had another conference call this morning with everyone from the mine as they provided their findings and preliminary actions from their own investigation over the last 24-hrs. I have relayed this information to Steve already, but wanted to document the status and upcoming action plan for the continued efforts by DWQ & DOGM.

First of all, let me start by stating that the response at SUFCo has been very expeditious and thorough since we first contacted the mine with our findings yesterday morning. In this case a picture really is worth a thousand words, because their response to seeing them created a lot of "excitement" and concern that this scenario happened at all, and may very well have happened in the past. They have everyone possible working on this problem.

After reviewing all of their water distribution system, Mr. Ken May and SUFCO believe that an older mine water settling area inside the mine near discharge 003 is having gob cave-in events that are triggering the pumps to activate and flush it all out 003 before the fines have a chance to settle. They are committed to solving this problem and are prepared to go through everything again with Steve and I at tomorrow's site visit. Although the waters now appear clear along Quitchipah Creek, they are as concerned as we are that some coal fines have settled along the waters edge indicating a discharge problem.

They have obtained preliminary lab data back from their samples at 003 taken Oct. 5th and report <5 ppm TSS and all other parameters within UPDES permit limits. DWQ should have lab results by tomorrow. We are still in the information gathering stages while a full investigation continues at the mine. I appreciate everyone's efforts thus far as we continue working together on this issue. More info to come after tomorrow's visit.

Thanks again,

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