0002

Tom Munson - Re: Fwd: Fw: (CWA - FY09-65595-3709-CV) Referred to Region - Utah

From: Robert Herbert
To: Daniel Griffin; John Kennington; Roger Foisy
Date: 7/27/2009 3:06 PM
Subject: Re: Fwd: Fw: (CWA - FY09-65595-3709-CV) Referred to Region - Utah
CC: John Whitehead; Oconnor.Darcy@epamail.epa.gov; Tom Munson

This email is intended as a followup response to the complaint submitted to EPA.

At the request of Western Utah Copper Company (WUCC), Environmental Scientist/P.G. Mark Novak and Environmental Engineer/P.E. Woodrow Campbell of the Ground Water Protection Section conducted an inspection at the WUCC OK Mine on July 22, 2009. This facility was issued a ground water discharge permit-by-rule on August 15, 2005 based on information provided in the August 5, 2005 Notice of Intent to Commence Large Mining Operations (NOI) that was submitted to the Division of Oil, Gas & Mining (DOGM).

The ore concentrating process involves crushing, grinding, froth flotation, and belt filter pressing designed to produce a copper concentrate and dry tailings (<10% moisture). The belt filters are not working and water is draining from the tailings in the flotation mill to unlined ponds. Because of the failure of the belt filters to capture the water for recycling, WUCC has requested an emergency Construction Permit to build a tailings impoundment and Woody is working with them to do this. The preliminary design of the impoundment includes a clay liner overlain with a 60-mil HDPE geomembrane to capture the tailings water for recycling back to the mill. We have also requested an application for a Ground Water Discharge Permit to reassess their milling operation.

The average depth to ground water is 167 feet based on four monitoring wells that are completed in granodiorite/quartz monzonite bedrock. Based on the DOGM NOI, the only reagents used in the process are froth flotation reagents. By design, froth reagents preferentially accumulate ore minerals (copper, gold, and silver) and are removed with the concentrate following the flotation process. Reagents used in the flotation process are typically added at 0.5% by fluid volume and are sufficiently diluted to render trace concentrations in the tailings as non-toxic. The ore is 65% oxidized on average and sulfide minerals associated with the Hidden Treasure garnet-magnetite skarn mineralization and the OK ore deposits are secondary chalcocite, minor chalcopyrite, molybdenite, and bornite. Pyrite is reportedly rare and the dominant sulfide minerals are secondary copper sulfides that are insoluble and non-acid-generating.

Rob Herbert, P.G., Manager
Ground Water Protection Section
Division of Water Quality
Utah Department of Environmental Quality
(801) 538-6038
rherbert@utah.gov

RECEIVED E-Mail
JUL 27 2009
Div. of Oil, Gas & Mining

>>> John Kennington 7/22/2009 7:22 AM >>>
Roger, Dan,

Do you guys know anything about this complaint we received from EPA? If not, Roger would you possibly have an opportunity to investigate please? Rob it appears there could be groundwater implications here.

-jk

>>> <Oconnor.Darcy@epamail.epa.gov> 7/21/2009 10:22 AM >>>

Hi John. We received this complaint today from our national system. Please let us know if you will be able to follow up or have any information regarding the allegations.

Thanks for your help!

D
303.312.6392
----- Forwarded by Darcy Oconnor/ENF/R8/USEPA/US on 07/21/2009 10:19 AM -----

Felix Flechas/R8/USEPA/US
07/21/2009 10:18 AM

To
Darcy Oconnor/ENF/R8/USEPA/US@EPA, Diane Sipe/R8/USEPA/US@EPA
cc

Subject
Fw: (CWA - FY09-65595-3709-CV) Referred to Region - Utah

----- Forwarded by Felix Flechas/R8/USEPA/US on 07/21/2009 10:16 AM -----

Beth Behrens/NEIC/USEPA/US@EPA
07/20/2009 04:24 PM

To
Felix Flechas/R8/USEPA/US@EPA
cc

Subject
FWD: (CWA - FY09-65595-3709-CV) Referred to Region - Utah

07/20/2009

SUBJECT: FWD: (CWA - FY09-65595-3709-CV) Referred to Region - Utah
FROM: behrens.beth@epa.gov
TO: flechas.felix@epa.gov
CC:

-----Original Message-----

7/17/2009 11:47 AM

HQ LEAD NUMBER: FY09-65595-3709-CV

SUBJECT: Referred to Region - Utah

FROM:

TO:

Alleged Violator's Name: WESTERN UTAH COPPER COMPANY,

Alleged Violator's Address: 1208 South 200 West

Alleged Violator's City: Milford

Alleged Violator's State: Utah

Alleged Violator's Zip: 84751

Tip or Complaint: WESTERN UTAH COPPER COMPANY/Copper King Mining is running waste water from their Mill into the ground with Toxi
cheminals. The wild aminals are drinking the water and dying. The company owner Mark Dotson said he did not care because the EPA would
not come on site as they were to far out. This is a new Mill but if this is not corrected soon the problem will get worse and the
ground water will be destroyed forever.

Specific Directions: About 5 miles north/west of the town of Milford, UT.

Violation Still Occuring? Yes

State DEP/DEQ/DEM Notified? No