State of Utah

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Department of
Environmental Quality

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DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
Erica Brown Gaddis, PhD
Director

November 4, 2020

Division of Water Quality
Utah Department of Environmental Quality
Public Notice of Intent to Issue Permit
Underground Injection Control Class III Area Permit
In Situ Copper Recovery

Purpose of Public Notice

The Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is soliciting comments on the request to authorize a new Underground Injection Control (UIC) Class III permit as described below. The permit is issued by the Director of the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) under authority of the Utah Water Quality Act, Section 19-5-106(g) Utah Code Ann. 1953, as amended and Utah Administrative Code R317-7. Under Section R317-7-13 the Director of DWQ will investigate and provide written response to all citizen complaints duly submitted. In addition, the Director shall not oppose intervention in any civil or administrative proceeding by any citizen where permissive intervention may be authorized by statute or rule. The Director will publish notice of and provide at least thirty (30) days of public comment on any proposed settlement of any enforcement action. Utah Administrative Code R317-7-13 can be viewed at the following internet URL: https://rules.utah.gov/publicat/code/r317/r317-007.htm#E14.

Permit Information

Permittee Name:	Lisbon Valley Mining Co., LLC (Lisbon Valley)
Facility Location:	Lisbon Valley, San Juan County
Mailing Address:	PO Box 248 La Sal, UT 84532

Lisbon Valley is currently an existing open pit heap leach copper mine and has submitted a UIC Class III Area Permit Application and Aquifer Exemption Request to construct and operate Class III in-situ copper recovery injection wells in south central San Juan County, Utah. This permit will allow Lisbon Valley to continue extraction of copper from ore within mineralized zones of the Burro Canyon aquifer (including the Dakota and Burro Canyon Formations) generally between 200 and 900 feet below the ground's surface. These resources are currently uneconomical to develop using open pit mining methods and Lisbon Valley is planning to extend the life of mine by adopting in situ copper recovery technology. The permit requires the operator to utilize best available technology in the construction, operation and closure of the in situ copper recovery facilities. It also provides for the monitoring of ground water and requires the operator to monitor the perimeter of the wellfield both laterally and beneath. Wellfield closure will follow copper recovery to restore groundwater quality by rinsing and plugging and abandonment of injection and recovery wells.

Public Comments

Public comments are invited any time prior to **Friday, December 4, 2020**. Comments may be directed to the Division of Water Quality, PO Box 144870, Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4870. All comments received prior to close of business **Friday, December 4, 2020**, will be considered in the formulation of final determinations to be imposed on the permit. A public hearing may be held if written requests are received within the first 15 days of this public comment period that demonstrate significant public interest and substantive issues exist to warrant holding a hearing.

Additional Information

Additional information may be obtained upon request by contacting Drummond Earley at (801) 536-4088 or dearley@utah.gov or by writing to the aforementioned address. Related documents are available for review on the DWQ web page at https://deq.utah.gov/water-quality/water-quality-public-notices.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with special needs (including auxiliary communicative aids and services) should contact the Utah State Accessibility website at https://www.utah.gov/accessibility.html.

DWQ-2020-020484