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NEWS RELEASE

August 13, 2015

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**Utah Agencies Continue Monitoring Impacts of Colorado Mine Spill
Latest Water Samples Show No Immediate Impacts to Utahns**

SALT LAKE CITY -- State agencies continue to monitor and respond to the Animas River contamination that flowed into Utah's San Juan River earlier this week. The plume is expected to have reached Lake Powell by now, though it is not discernible.

What follows is a summary of actions by various state agencies who have responded to protect the health and environment of Utahns. All involved agencies are in contact with federal and local partners.

The Utah Department of Environmental Quality's latest water quality samples taken Aug. 10 when the plume reached the San Juan River suggest safe levels for drinking water, but results are preliminary and more analysis continues. For more information visit <http://www.deq.utah.gov/Topics/Water/goldkingmine/index.htm>

According to a Utah Department of Health analysis, exposure to the contaminants in the river are not expected to result in adverse health effects for people recreating in the waters, nor for livestock or crops watered by the San Juan River.

However, as this is a potentially developing contamination, the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food advises agricultural producers along the San Juan River to avoid using the water as an irrigation and livestock watering source, as a precaution, until further testing is completed. Emergency livestock water is available. Farmers and ranchers are advised to contact their local county emergency management office for specific updates and assistance.

The Utah Department of Natural Resources continues baseline fish testing where the San Juan River flows into Lake Powell. The results will eventually be used to compare pre-plume metal levels with post contamination test findings.

Due to dilution and observations upstream, DNR does not expect to see fish kills in Lake Powell. DNR is planning to monitor long-term impacts to aquatic wildlife, as well as additional monitoring/testing to ensure fish are safe to eat, but that takes time.

The Utah Department of Public Safety's Division of Emergency Management has sent a team of three employees to San Juan County to assist local emergency managers with public and

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intergovernmental communications. DEM has been in close contact with our partners in the Navajo tribal areas to help ensure that we are lending support in any way possible. The division is preparing for long-term response and planning.

Thursday, the Department's fixed-wing aircraft was deployed to deliver water samples to the State laboratory.

Recreational water users are advised to carry their own drinking water and not rely on filtering or purifying river water. Those planning to visit Lake Powell should visit <http://www.nps.gov/glca/learn/news/newsreleases.htm>

Concerned Anglers should stay up to date on the following web page: <http://www.wayneswords.com/>

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