

**Division of Water Quality**  
**Utah Department of Environmental Quality**  
**Public Notice of Intent to Renew a Ground Water Discharge Permit**  
**Permit No. UGW470001**

**Purpose of Public Notice**

The Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is soliciting comments on the request to renew a ground water discharge permit as described below. The ground water discharge permit is issued by the Director of the Division of Water Quality under authority of the Utah Water Quality Act, Section 19-5-106(g) Utah Code Ann. 1953, as amended and Utah Administrative Code R317-6. Under Section 19-1-301.5, effective May 8, 2012, a person who wishes to challenge a Permit Order may only raise an issue or argument during an adjudicatory proceeding that was raised during the public comment period and was supported with sufficient information or documentation to enable the Director to fully consider the substance and significance of the issue. Utah Code Ann. 19-1-301.5 can be viewed at the following internet URL: [http://le.utah.gov/~code/TITLE19/htm/19\\_01\\_030105.htm](http://le.utah.gov/~code/TITLE19/htm/19_01_030105.htm).

**Permit information**

Permittee Name:	Simplot Phosphates LLC
Mailing Address:	9401 N. Hwy. 191 Vernal, UT 84078-7795
Facility Location:	10 miles north of Vernal, UT.

Simplot Phosphates LLC operates a surface mine and concentrator facility for processing ore used in the production of phosphate fertilizer. Phosphate mineral grains are separated from the ore and pumped in a slurry pipeline to Rock Springs, Wyoming. Clay fines and barren mineral grains from the ore processing are pumped to the tailings storage facility (TSF). Clarified water from the TSF is reclaimed for re-use in ore processing. The ground water discharge permit allows the TSF to be enlarged as more ore is processed. The TSF is unlined, but it is located on the outcrop of the Moenkopi shale, a geologic formation which has low permeability and which contains ground water of naturally poorer quality than the water stored in the TSF impoundment. Under the terms of the ground water discharge permit, Simplot Phosphates is required to monitor the quality of ground and surface water which could potentially be affected by the TSF. If contaminant concentrations in monitored wells and surface water exceed permit protection limits, Simplot Phosphates is required to investigate the cause of water quality changes and correct them if they are due to operation of the TSF or other mine activities.

**Public Comments**

Public comments are invited any time prior to **Thursday, June 11, 2015**. Written comments may be directed to the Division of Water Quality, P.O. Box 144870, Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4870. All comments received prior to close of business **Thursday, June 11, 2015**, 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 Mark Novak at (801) 536-4358 or [mnovak@utah.gov](mailto:mnovak@utah.gov) or by writing to the aforementioned address. Related documents are available for review during normal business hours at DWQ, 195 North 1950 West in Salt Lake City or on the DWQ web page at <http://www.waterquality.utah.gov/PublicNotices/index.htm>.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with special needs (including auxiliary communicative aids and services) should contact Dana Powers, Office of Human Resources at (801) 536-4413, TDD (801) 536-4414.