



State of Utah

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Environmental Quality

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DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY  
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Director

**JUNE 16, 2020**

**DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY  
UTAH DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
PUBLIC NOTICE OF ISSUANCE OF GROUND WATER DISCHARGE PERMIT  
PERMIT NO. UGW470001**

**PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE**

THE UTAH DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY IS SOLICITING COMMENTS ON ITS PROPOSAL TO ISSUE A GROUND WATER DISCHARGE PERMIT DESCRIBED BELOW UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE UTAH WATER QUALITY ACT, SECTION 19-5-104(1)(I) UTAH CODE ANNOTATED 1953, AS AMENDED AND UTAH ADMINISTRATIVE CODE R317-6.

**PERMIT INFORMATION**

PERMITTEE NAME: SIMPLOT PHOSPHATES LLC

MAILING ADDRESS: 9401 NORTH 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, JULY 16, 2020**. WRITTEN 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 **THURSDAY, JULY 16, 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.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED UPON REQUEST BY CALLING WOODROW CAMPBELL AT (801) 536-4353 OR BY WRITING THE AFOREMENTIONED ADDRESS. RELATED DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS AT THE DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY, 195 NORTH 1950 WEST, SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84116.

FOR THOSE INDIVIDUALS NEEDING SPECIAL ASSISTANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, PLEASE CONTACT THE UTAH DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, BUREAU OF HUMAN RESOURCES AT (801)536-4284.

DWQ-2020-012846