

Public Notice
Division of Water Quality
Utah Department of Environmental Quality
Utah and Colorado Water Survey for Mussels and Snails

Purpose of Public Notice

The purpose of this public notice is to declare a public notice and comment period to solicit comments on the report titled *Utah and Colorado Survey for Mussels and Snails*, July 1, 2017.

BACKGROUND

In 2013, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released new water quality criteria for ammonia. These new criteria are more stringent than the current criteria and are designed to ensure protection for ammonia sensitive species (specifically unionid mussels and non-pulmonate snails). These new criteria may require that many existing facilities that discharge into waters inhabited by ammonia sensitive species be upgraded to meet the new standards, likely at significant costs to the companies and governments that operate those facilities. The first step in evaluating how these new standards should be applied in Utah was to review and compile the existing data on where the sensitive species have been observed in Utah. The Division of Water Quality teamed with the State of Colorado to fund this study to investigate the historical presence of the sensitive species in both Utah and Colorado. Utah is only financially responsible for the Utah portion of the work.

The study was conducted in accordance with the work plan: *Utah and Colorado Water Survey for Mussels and Snails*, March 14, 2017. The study includes a report and the information provided in both spreadsheet and map formats. Due to the large size (120 mb), access to the map formats in .mpk format is only available by emailing a request to cbittner@utah.gov or by visiting the Division offices.

Public Comments

Public comments are invited any time prior to **5:00 pm Monday, October 23, 2017**. Written comments may be directed to the Utah Division of Water Quality, Attn: Chris Bittner, P.O. Box 144870, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870 or emailed to cbittner@utah.gov. After considering and responding to public comment, a final version of the report will be completed.

Further Information

The public notice and report are available at <http://www.deq.utah.gov/NewsNotices/notices/water/index.htm> and are also available for review during normal business hours at the Division of Water Quality, 195 N. 1950 W., Salt Lake City, Utah. For questions or additional information, please contact Chris Bittner at (801) 536-4371, or cbittner@utah.gov.

In compliance with the American 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 536-4284).