



State of Utah

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DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY  
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September 27, 2022

DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY  
UTAH DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
PUBLIC NOTICE TO ISSUE A SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

**PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE**

The purpose of this public notice is to declare the State of Utah's intention to issue a Section 401 Water Quality Certification with Conditions under the authority of the Federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1341), and consistent with the Utah Water Quality Act, Title 19, Chapter 5, Utah Code and Utah Administrative Code R317-15.

**PERMIT INFORMATION**

PERMITTEE NAME: US Magnesium  
MAILING ADDRESS: 238 North 2200 West Salt Lake City, Utah 84116  
PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed project is located on the Great Salt Lake in Grantsville, Tooele County, Utah. The project is approximately located at 40.951716, -112.514961.  
DWQ CERTIFICATION NO.: DWQ-2022-08001  
WATERCOURSES: Gilbert Bay – The Great Salt Lake

**BACKGROUND**

The Project Proponent proposes to extend two intake canals at the US Magnesium Facility in Gilbert Bay of the Great Salt Lake. The purpose of the project is to ensure continued operation of the US Magnesium facility. The project would maintain connectivity with the source water for the evaporation facility. Diminishing lake levels have isolated the two intake canals from the Great Salt Lake which has limited the ability of the facility to operate. The project will utilize hydraulic dredging to reinstate the connection between the lake and the intake canals and would modify limited portions of the lake bed. The proposed project would extend the canals to a bottom elevation of 4,185 ft. The existing P-0 Canal will be extending from 2.6 miles to 5.6 miles with a 40 ft bottom width and maximum top width of 62 ft. The existing P-North Canal will be extended from 1.1 miles long to 1.8 miles with a 40 ft bottom width and a maximum top width of 55 ft. The project would maintain a conveyance of lake water intake flow of 100,000 gallons per minute from the Great Salt Lake. The project would take place adjacent to the existing canal to minimize impacts. The construction corridor will be restricted to 300 ft wide. The dredged material would

be placed within approximately 126.8 acres of lakebed. The dredged material would be discharged utilizing the aerial broadcast technique adjacent to the canals. The dredged material applied will not exceed 2 ft in height in order to mimic the natural variations of the lakebed. This proposed project is intended to be the first step in a long-term process to ensure access to water from the Great Salt Lake.

The Great Salt Lake would be the only waterbody that would be impacted during the course of the proposed project. No streams or wetlands are located within the proposed project boundaries. The proposed application of the dredged material adjacent to the canals will not have a significant impact on the chemical, physiological, or biological composition of the existing lakebed. The project would not affect any threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat.

The proposed project would not result in permanent loss of any Waters of the United States (WOTUS) nor change the function of the existing lakebed. The management of dredged material would mimic natural lakebed conditions which would have a less significant impact than disposing of the material in an upland area. The construction would take place along and adjacent to the existing canals to reduce impacts. Canal extension plans and discharge areas would be adjusted to avoid impacts to sensitive microbialites if possible. The project proponent provided two alternatives to dredging, facility modifications and a floating pipe system. Facility modifications have been ongoing to try to maintain operations with lowered lake levels. The facility has been relying on stockpiled surplus to supplement the declining intake capacity but the surplus is anticipated to be gone by next year. The floating pipe alternative would require additional infrastructure including barges, pumps, and anchoring systems. This alternative would be at a higher cost and would be dependent on resource availability.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Public comments are invited any time prior to the deadline of the close of business on **November 14, 2022**. Written public comments can be submitted to: Andrea Kilbane, General Permitting Section, Utah Division of Water Quality, PO Box 144870, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870 or by email at: [wqcomments@utah.gov](mailto:wqcomments@utah.gov). After considering public comments the Utah Division of Water Quality may execute the Certification issuance, revise it or abandon it. The Certification is available for public review under <https://deq.utah.gov/water-quality/water-quality-public-notices>. If internet access is not available, a copy may be obtained by calling Andrea Kilbane at 385-501-9586.