

NPDES authorization to discharge to waters of the United States, Permit No. NM0029505

The applicant's mailing address is:

San Juan Coal Company
La Plata Mine
300 West Arrington, Suite 101
Farmington, NM 87401

La Plata mine is located 15 miles north of Farmington in San Juan County, New Mexico. Under the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Code 1221, the applicant operates coal mining. Based on information provided in the application, the facility is engaged in the reclamation of previous western alkaline surface coal mining operation. La Plata mine is a remote, inactive, unstaffed, and fully reclaimed mine site. The requirements found in 40 CFR 434, Subpart H (reclamation activities in western alkaline coal mining) have been applied to discharges from reclamation areas. Mine drainages discharge due to precipitation events from reclamation areas to unnamed intermittent streams in Waterbody Segment 20.6.4.98 NMAC and thence to the La Plata River. Designated uses of the receiving water are stated in the Fact Sheet.

The changes from the current permit issued September 10, 2014, with an effective date of November 1, 2014, and an expiration date of October 31, 2019 are:

- Limitations and monitoring requirements as well as a compliance schedule for total aluminum are added in the draft permit for Outfalls 015, 016 and 028.

A fact sheet is available.

State Certification

This Notice also serves as Public Notice of the intent of the New Mexico Environment Department, Surface Water Quality Bureau to consider issuing Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Certification. The purpose of such certification is to reasonably ensure that the permitted activities will be conducted in a manner that will comply with applicable New Mexico water quality standards, including the anti-degradation policy, and the statewide water quality management plan. The NPDES permit will not be issued until the certification requirements of Section 401 have been met.

If you want to comment on State Certification submit written comments within the 30-day period to:

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New Mexico Environment Department
Surface Water Quality Bureau (N2050)
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