

Surface Water Quality, PR-11 Expansion Area

Trapper submitted PR-11 with the intent to extend the perimeter boundary of the mine slightly to the northwest of the current permit area. This small permit extension adjoins the active mine area and permit boundary as of 2022. The following discussion details surface water baseline sampling of the East and West Buzzard drainages located within the expansion area.

The West and East Buzzard watersheds are located within upslope areas that have been entirely disturbed by mining and subsequently reclaimed. These drainages flow northward from the permit area, eventually crossing under nearby Highway 13. From Highway 13 the drainages lose definition and flow overland until terminating in the Big Bottom area.

Water quality sampling occurred for the East Buzzard drainage from 1997 to 2004 at historic NPDES outfall 003 (Figure 2.7-15g), which was located immediately adjacent to the south boundary of the new expansion area. Sampling occurred for the West Buzzard drainage from 1992 to 2004 at historic NPDES outfall 006 (Figure 2.7-15g), which was also located immediately adjacent to the south boundary of the expansion area. The Far East Buzzard drainage (a small subset of the East Buzzard drainage), outfall 014, was sampled for surface water runoff quality from 1997 through 2012. Table 2.7-18c gives the water flow and water quality sample data from that monitoring.

The historic water quality for all three outfalls meets the Regulation #37 Stream Classifications and Water Quality Standards for the Lower Yampa/Green River Segment 3B published by the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission.