State of Utah

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Lieutenant Governor

Department of
Environmental Quality

Alan Matheson
Executive Director

DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
Walter L. Baker, P.E.
Director

FEB 03 2016

Jared Blumenfeld, Regional Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA, 94105

Dear Mr. Blumenfeld,

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 522(a)(3) and implementing regulations, the State of Utah, acting by and through the undersigned, hereby requests copies of or access to the following:

1. All data collected from the San Juan River, its tributaries, and Lake Powell associated with EPA's response to the Gold King Mine spill including water quality, sediment, and biological data. The data currently available on EPA's website include samples collected through October 8, 2015 and were released on October 28, 2015. UDWQ is particularly interested in any data that indicate exceedances of Utah's water quality criteria as well as samples that were split with UDEQ on October 26, 2015.
2. Sampling Analysis Plans, Quality Assurance Project Plans, and all QA/QC reports associated with data collected since August 5, 2015 on the San Juan River and Lake Powell. The QAPP published on-line refers to immediate response sampling and is not necessarily representative of the long-term monitoring efforts.

This request is submitted by the State of Utah for the purpose of gathering information to evaluate the immediate and long-term effects on Utah's waters of the Gold King Mine release as well as previous and subsequent releases of mine waste from the Silverton area. This request formalizes previous requests that UDWQ has made to EPA Region 8 by phone and by email. UDWQ requests that data be provided in tabular format (e.g, MS Excel) and that such files be unlocked for easy data manipulation.

The State asks that fees otherwise chargeable for costs incurred in responding to this request be waived on the ground that furnishing the information sought will primarily benefit the public interest and will not serve any commercial interest of the party making the request.

Sincerely,

Walter L. Baker, P.E.
Director

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