

STATEMENT OF BASIS

PERMITTEE: U. S. National Park Service

FACILITY: Colorado National Monument

PERMIT NO.: CO-0034975

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Greg Crawford
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FACILITY CONTACT: Same as Above

PERMIT TYPE: Federal Facility
New Permit - Minor
No Discharge Lagoon

Background Information

The Colorado National Monument lagoon system serves the Saddlehorn Visitor Center, offices, and housing and the Saddlehorn Campground. This is a wastewater lagoon system consisting of two lagoons. The first lagoon has a capacity of 1.5 million gallons, the second, over 1 million gallons. Yearly flows to the lagoons are less than 750,000 gallons. From November through February, daily flows are less than 500 gallons per day. The outfall from the second lagoon has been removed. According to the cover letter accompanying the permit application, the flow to the lagoons has always been too low for the lagoons to reach capacity. Consequently, there has been no discharge. The U. S. National Park Service is responsible for the operation and maintenance of this facility. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) intends to issue a no discharge permit for this facility.

The lagoons are located at Latitude 39°06'22", Longitude -108°44'28".

Receiving Waters

The potential discharges from the wastewater lagoon system would go to an unnamed tributary of the Colorado River. It is unlikely that any discharges would reach the Colorado River.

Permit Limitations

The Colorado National Monument lagoon system is required to have no discharge. The no discharge requirement is based on the facility's no discharge history. The need to discharge is not expected to occur during the five year life of the permit. If an unauthorized release occurs or is expected to occur, the discharge is to be monitored and records are to be maintained in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the permit. The EPA Region 8 office is to be notified in the event of any unanticipated bypass or unauthorized discharge.

Self-Monitoring Requirements

As a preventative measure, the permit requires that the permittee inspect the wastewater treatment facility on at least a weekly basis. The objectives of the inspections are to include ascertaining the discharge status of the lagoons and confirming that proper operation and maintenance procedures are being put into practice. The permittee is to maintain a record of inspections. The record is to include the date and time of the inspection; the name(s) of the person(s) conducting the inspection; any problems identified; recommendations, as appropriate, to remedy identified problems; and a brief description of any actions taken with regard to the identified problems. The records of inspection are to be retained on-site at the facility or at a nearby office for the facility.

Endangered Species Act (ESA) Requirements

Section 7(a) of the Endangered Species Act requires federal agencies to insure that any actions authorized, funded, or carried out by an agency are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any federally-listed endangered or threatened species or adversely modify or destroy critical habitat of such species. Federally listed threatened, endangered and candidate species found in Mesa County, Colorado include:

| <u>Species</u> | <u>Status</u> |
|---|---------------|
| Bonytail© (<i>Gila elegans</i>) | E |
| Canada lynx (<i>Lynx canadensis</i>) | T |
| Colorado hookless cactus (<i>Sclerocactus glaucus</i>) | T |
| Colorado pikeminnow© (<i>Ptychocheilus lucius</i>) | E |
| De Beque phacelia (<i>Phacelia submutica</i>) | P |
| Greenback cutthroat trout# (<i>Oncorhynchus clarki stomias</i>) | T |
| Humpback chub© (<i>Gila cypha</i>) | E |
| Razorback sucker© (<i>Xyrauchen texanus</i>) | E |
| Yellow-billed cuckoo (<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>) | C |

© There is a designated critical habitat for the species within the county.

Recent genetic tests identified cutthroat population as GB lineage, therefore, consultation is an interim measure until genetic and taxonomic issues are resolved.

T Threatened

E Endangered

P Proposed
C Candidate

EPA finds that this permit is Not Likely to Adversely Affect any of the species listed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Endangered Species Act. Because the permit requires no discharge, the issuance of the permit is not expected to adversely affect endangered species in the area.

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Requirements

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), 16 U.S.C. § 470(f), requires that federal agencies consider the effects of federal undertakings on historic properties. Because the facility is already in existence and will not be associated with any new ground disturbance and the permit requires no discharge, EPA does not anticipate any impacts on listed/eligible historic properties or cultural resources due to the issuance of this permit.

Miscellaneous

This permit will be issued for a period of five years, with the permit expiration date determined at the time of permit issuance.

Permit and Fact Sheet drafted by:

Lisa Luebke
Environmental Engineer
December 9, 2010

Permit and Fact Sheet reviewed by:

Robert D. Shankland
Senior Environmental Employee
December 13, 2010

Addendum

No comments were received during the public notice period and the permit is being issued as public noticed. The effective date will be April 1, 2011 and the permit will expire in five years on March 31, 2016.

Additionally, the State of Colorado did not certify the permit within the 60 day time frame. Consequently, the State has waived its certification.

Lisa Luebke,
Environmental Engineer
March 2, 2011