

Colorado's long-term monitoring plan status update

Collecting data for assessing risks to public health and the environment in the Upper Animas River Basin

May 10, 2016

On May 3, 2016 the Water Quality Control Division delivered equipment and supplies to San Juan Basin Health Department and San Juan County Public Health to kick start weekly monitoring efforts described in Colorado's Long-Term Monitoring of the Upper Animas River Basin.

Agency personnel from these agencies were trained on standard operating procedures for the collection of surface water and sediment samples as well as measuring instantaneous water quality data with a handheld, multi-parameter probe. Personnel were also trained on how to fill out a field log form to document each site visit and a chain-of-custody form to document when the samples were collected and relinquished to the laboratory.

Samples were delivered to the Colorado Laboratory Services Division on May 5, 2016 by division staff and are being analyzed for total and dissolved metals. Laboratory analytical results will be reported to the division, paired with instantaneous data and posted to the departments Animas River spill webpage.

Local health agencies will continue weekly sampling at the four sites until mid-July 2016 and subsequently will perform verification sampling, as needed, in response to exceedences of established alert notification thresholds at two U.S. Geological Survey gages near the Town of Silverton. Updates will be provided bi-monthly through July and periodically thereafter.

Water quality samples are collected at four monitoring sites:

1. CEM49 - Cement Creek at mouth
2. 82 - Animas River near Silverton
3. 81 - Animas River at Bakers Bridge
4. 9423A - Animas River at Durango 9th Street Bridge



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Department of Public Health & Environment



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