

AUTHORIZATION TO DISCHARGE TO WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES,
NPDES PERMIT NO. NM0029581.

The applicant's mailing address is:

Lee Ranch Coal Company
P.O. Box 757
Grants, NM 87020

Under Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Codes 1221 the applicant currently conducts surface coal and lignite mining activities. The mining site is located near San Mateo, McKinley County, New Mexico. Discharges are to Mulatto Canyon Arroyo which is an ephemeral arroyo. The Mulatto Canyon Arroyo drains into San Isidro Arroyo, which joins Arroyo Chico, tributary of the Rio Puerco. The Rio Puerco flows southeastward to Segment 20.6.4.105 of the Rio Grande Basin.

Changes from the permit previously issued March 23, 2005, with an effective date of May 1, 2005 and an expiration date of April 30, 2010, are:

1. Add effluent characteristics sampling requirement for mine drainage;
2. Update outfall numbers and locations;
3. Delete effluent limitations for discharges from reclamation areas;
4. Add sediment control plan requirements for discharges from reclamation areas;
5. Change pH range limitation from 6.0 – 9.0 to 6.6 – 9.0;
6. Delete monitoring and limitation requirements of fecal coliform;
7. Add monitoring and limitation requirements of E. coli; and
8. Add Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) testing requirement for mine drainage discharge.

The statement of basis is available.