

Katie Hobbs  
Governor

# Arizona Department of Environmental Quality



Karen Peters  
Cabinet Executive Officer  
Executive Deputy Director

July 26, 2024

**Subject:** Pinyon Plain Mine  
Minor Amendment for Inventory No. 100333  
Place ID No. 827 LTF No. 103377

**Facility Name:** Pinyon Plain Mine  
**Owner and Operator:** Energy Fuels Resources (USA) Inc.

To whom it may concern:

ADEQ is reaching out to inform you of the Agency's decision to grant Minor Amendment #103377 to the referenced Individual Aquifer Protection Program (APP) permit, as you have expressed interest and concerns regarding permitting actions associated with the Pinyon Plain Mine. The APP permit for the Mine is in place to protect groundwater and ensure that mine-impacted water remains isolated from groundwater and potential drinking water sources. This minor modification was required by the original APP permit. It enables ADEQ to monitor and enforce upon the limitations established in the modification.

To determine the baseline groundwater quality conditions surrounding the facility prior to mining activity and establish groundwater monitoring limitations to be incorporated into an amended APP permit, the APP permit ADEQ granted to Energy Fuels Resources (USA) Inc. (EFRI) in 2021 required that EFRI complete eight quarters of ambient groundwater monitoring and submit a Minor Amendment application. Establishment of these numeric limitations – Alert Levels (ALs) and Aquifer Quality Limits (AQLs) for contaminants in the Point of Compliance (POC) wells – is a critical step to provide enforceable standards protective of groundwater quality through the operational life of the facility, including closure, and post-closure monitoring period.

EFRI submitted the necessary Minor Amendment application, including the required ambient groundwater monitoring report, to ADEQ on April 8, 2024 and it can be viewed on ADEQ's website at: <https://azdeq.gov/WQD/PinyonPlainMine>.

The ambient groundwater monitoring results in the deep groundwater (the Redwall-Muav aquifer) documented:

- The background levels of all constituents regulated by the APP permit were all below applicable Aquifer Water Quality Standards (AWQS). In accordance with Arizona law, ADEQ has set the limits for these constituents in the APP permit at the AWQS.

The ambient groundwater monitoring results for the shallow groundwater (the Coconino aquifer) documented:

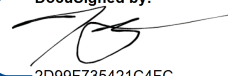
- The background levels for nine constituents were below AWQS. In accordance with Arizona law, ADEQ has set the limits for these constituents in the APP permit at the AWQS.
- In one or more POC wells, the background levels for radionuclides and six metals (antimony, arsenic, gross Alpha, nickel, thallium and uranium) were above AWQS. In accordance with Arizona law, ADEQ has set specific limits for these constituents calculated through statistical analysis of the ambient groundwater monitoring data.

With the Minor Amendment in place, groundwater monitoring and reporting requirements will be in effect and ADEQ will continue to inspect the facility to ensure compliance with all the provisions of the APP permit.

Please note that a Minor Amendment of an APP permit is not an appealable ADEQ action and pursuant to Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.) R18-9-A211(E) does not require public notice.

Thank you for your interest and attention to environmental issues in Arizona. For more information please refer to A.A.C. R18-9-A306, R18-9-A309(D), R18-9-C302(D), and R18-9-D304(G), or reach out to [groundwaterpermits@azdeq.gov](mailto:groundwaterpermits@azdeq.gov).

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Trevor Baggione, Director  
Water Quality Division