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February 27, 2019

New Mexico Environment Department
Surface Water Quality Bureau
Attn: Jennifer Fullam
1190 S. St. Francis Dr.
Santa Fe, NM 87505

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Notice of Public Comment Period for Peabody Natural Resources Company's Draft Use Attainability Analysis and Proposed Changes to the Surface Water Quality Standards for San Isidro Arroyo and Tributaries, McKinley County, New Mexico

Peabody Natural Resources Company (PNRC) invites public comment on the draft Use Attainability Analysis (UAA) and proposed changes to the surface water quality standards for San Isidro Arroyo and tributaries, McKinley County, New Mexico.

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) establishes designated uses and surface water quality standards for all waters of the state. The waters within the San Isidro Arroyo watershed that are unclassified have designated uses of livestock watering, wildlife habitat, primary contact, and marginal warm water aquatic life. The waters within the San Isidro Arroyo watershed that were classified as ephemeral by NMED in 2013 have designated uses of livestock watering, wildlife habitat, secondary contact, and limited aquatic life.

A UAA is a scientific study conducted for the purpose of assessing the factors affecting the attainment of a designated use. PNRC conducted a UAA on waters within the San Isidro Arroyo watershed that relied on methods outlined in the NMED *Hydrology Protocol* for identifying ephemeral and intermittent waters. Based on the findings of the UAA, PNRC is proposing to classify the San Isidro Arroyo and tributaries as ephemeral in the State Water Quality Standards for Interstate and Intrastate Surface Waters (NMAC 20.6.4). The Draft UAA and the proposed water quality standards amendment are available for public inspection at the McKinley County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office, 201 W. Hill, Gallup New Mexico; and the Mother Whiteside Public Library, 1101 N First St., Grants, New Mexico.

The comment period for this proposal begins March 13, 2019 and ends April 12, 2019. Comments for inclusion in the public record must be submitted in writing to Chad Gaines, P.O. Box 757, Grants, NM, 87020; or by e-mail to cgaines@peabodyenergy.com.

PNRC will also hold a public meeting to answer questions on the Draft UAA and proposed water quality standards amendments at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, 1101 N First St., Grant, New Mexico. The public meeting will be held March 26, from 1:00 – 3:00 PM.