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CURLEW VALLEY WATER ISSUES SUBJECT OF UPCOMING MEETING

“Geology and Ground Water Chemistry, Curlew Valley – Implications for Hydrology”

Utah Geological Survey & Division of Water Rights, Special Study 126

The State Engineer will hold a public meeting to discuss and elicit input from all possible stakeholders on the recent release of a research document entitled *“Geology and Ground Water Chemistry, Curlew Valley – Implications for Hydrology”*. This research was co-sponsored by the Department of Natural Resources -Utah Geological Survey and The Division of Water Rights and focuses on the hydrogeology of the bedrock and alluvial aquifers of the Curlew Valley and its potential impact to water use in the area. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 28, 2009 at 6:00 PM at the Snowville Town Hall, 20 West Main Street, Snowville Utah.

Personnel from the Division of Water Rights and the Utah Geological Survey will present information, and entertain questions and comments, on the report and the potential impact of the research on future local water use. They will present the results of the cooperative geologic and hydrologic study of the Locomotive Springs and the surface-water drainage basin that feeds the springs, known as Curlew Valley. The basin includes parts of northern Utah and southern Idaho. The study combines geologic, geophysical, water level, and water-chemistry data to improve our understanding of the hydrogeology of this geologically complex area. The study finds that a substantial increase in ground-water pumping for agriculture over the past 40 years, combined with lower-than-average precipitation during the past 10 years, are the most likely causes of the declining discharge at Locomotive Springs. Water levels and water quality in agricultural areas north of the springs have declined during the same time period. Recycling of unused irrigation water into pumping wells has caused ground-water quality in those areas to decline.

People living or owning land and/or Water Rights in Curlew Valley, and the adjacent mountains, are especially encouraged to attend and provide their input and opinions. The Report is available on the UGS website (<http://geology.utah.gov/online/ss/ss-126.pdf>) or the Water Rights Publication website (<http://waterrights.utah.gov/cgi-bin/libview.exe?Modinfo=Viewpub&LIBNUM=50-1-491>).

