

## Questions and Answers



# Zephyr Minerals

Q: Is it true that Zephyr will reduce the water level in Grape Creek so that irrigation water doesn't reach Cañon City and fish are killed in Grape Creek?

Dear Reader,

No, the water lease specifically states that the water is available ONLY IF all other users of water in the District have sufficient supply. AND, in the event of "an act of God" the water may not be available to us.

Streams that flow into the Arkansas River like Grape Creek (GC) are strictly regulated. The CO Division of Water Resources (DWR) requires temporary water use plans called Substitute Water Supply Plans (SWSP). As part of approval, we will give 24 to 48 hours' notice to the Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District (UAWCD) before water is pumped from GC. The UAWCD will then release additional water from DeWeese Reservoir for the day. This will ensure that there are no water losses from GC. Average flow rates on GC are 8500 gallons per minute (gal/min) and during low flow conditions as in 2018 the average flow rate was 1800 gal/min. Average water pumped from Grape Creek during drilling is 5.6 gal/min.

We will likely not use all of our leased water because water is recirculated. We pull drill core, solid cylindrical rock less than 3 inches in diameter from the subsurface. Water lubricates and cools the drill bit and is recirculated through specialized water tanks to settle out drilling fines. The same quantity of water is reused many times.

**Thank you for your question.**

**Zephyr Minerals**