

**STATE OF UTAH
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**

FACT SHEET

DRAFT Certification Decision No. UTGSL-OCD-001
Great Salt Lake Mineral Extraction Facility

I. Facility Contacts

Operator: Waterleaf Phase 1, LLC
Facility Name: Great Salt Lake Lithium Extraction Project, Commercial Plant
Mailing Address: 9350 South 150 East, Suite 710
Sandy, Utah 84070
Telephone: (248) 497-2883
Facility Location: Western Slope Promontory Mountains
Unincorporated Box Elder Co.
Discharge Location: Latitude 41° 26' 44.47", Longitude 112° 42' 25.25"

II. Purpose

On June 1, 2026, the Director of the Utah Division of Water Quality issued a public notice announcing the Director's intention to issue an Operator Certification Approval to Waterleaf Phase 1, LLC (Waterleaf) for its Great Salt Lake Phase 1 Lithium Extraction Project (Facility). Following that notice period, the Director modified the Draft Operator Certification Approval. This Fact Sheet details those modifications, and provides the basis for the monitoring and reporting requirements contained in the Draft Operator Certification Decision.

III. Summary of Changes from the Prior Draft Operator Certification Decision

The Draft Operator Certification was modified to contain an additional requirement resulting from the public notice period. Specifically, the modified Draft Operator Certification Decision requires Waterleaf to submit an Operational Adjustment Plan should its sampling indicate that Waterleaf's operations are, or may be, negatively impacting the biota or chemistry of Great Salt Lake.

This modified Draft Operator Certification Decision contains numerous reorganizational and clarification edits. The Director considers these edits to be nonsubstantive. The following is a general overview of the nonsubstantive reorganization and clarification edits:

1. The following sections were removed from the Draft Certification Decision and placed in this Fact Sheet: 1) procedural history; 2) facility information; 3) justifications for the monitoring and reporting requirements; and 4) public notice and comment.
2. The Definition section was removed. Each of the terms removed are defined in Utah Admin. Code R317-16. The definitions were removed to reduce possibility for error in future iterations, should those definitions change in rule.
3. This modified Draft Certification Decision clarifies the monitoring and reporting requirements, to more clearly delineate the requirements of the Operator Certification Decision, as opposed to the Utah Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (UPDES) Permit.
4. Stray provisions were organized into one “General Requirements” section.
5. Duplicative requirements were removed.
6. The contents of the Sampling and Analysis Plan were defined.
7. The title of the Final Report was changed to “18-Month Report.”

IV. Procedural History

On February 4, 2025, Waterleaf received a Certification Approval by Rule for its feasibility assessment. Waterleaf’s pilot plant discharged between February 6, 2025, and August 12, 2025.

Per Utah Admin. Code R317-16-3(1), Waterleaf requested a joint pre-filing meeting with the Division of Water Quality (Division) and the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands (FFSL), which was held on September 5, 2025. Waterleaf submitted an Application for Operator Certification Approval on November 4, 2025. The Division notified Waterleaf that the Application was incomplete on December 24, 2025. *See* DWQ-2025-009997. The Division received a complete Application for Operator Certification Approval on April 2, 2026. *See* DWQ-2026-002910. On April 27, 2026, the Division notified Waterleaf that the Division considered its application complete as of April 2, 2026. *See* DWQ-2026-005223.

The Director issued a Draft Certification Decision on June 1, 2026 for public notice and comment. Following the public comment period, the Director considered the comments received, modified the Draft Certification Decision, and reopened the public comment period for a limited extension of the comment period for the purpose of soliciting comments on the new Operational Adjustment Plan.

V. Facility Information

Waterleaf intends to extract lithium from Gunnison Bay, Great Salt Lake, at its Facility located on the western slope of the Promontory Mountains in Box Elder County, Utah. The Facility was designed and constructed based on the information gathered during its feasibility assessment, and has a flow volume of 20 MGD (millions of gallons per day). The Facility will utilize non-evaporative ion-exchange (IX) direct lithium extraction (DLE) technology to produce Lithium Carbonate Extract. The Facility will include an intake and discharge located in Gunnison Bay. The Lithium Carbonate Extract will be shipped off-site for further processing and sale.

A small percentage of freshwater will be added to the process. This water will come from an

on-site groundwater well. The Facility utilizes the proprietary Lilac IX DLE technology. The process has three main stages: 1) Intake and Prefiltration; 2) the IX DLE Process; and 3) Eluate Post-Processing.

VI. Basis for Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

Biological Monitoring: Waterleaf's feasibility assessment did not investigate the Facility's performance during all seasons of the year; and did not include the addition of chlorine, which could create compounds that impact biota. As such, the Director determined that additional biological monitoring should be conducted, to capture the operational performance over time.

Chemical Monitoring Semiannual Summaries: Waterleaf is required, per its UPDES Permit, to monitor for numerous parameters. However, those are single data points gathered weekly. The Summaries will provide a broader look at the impact of Waterleaf's operations that cannot be captured through a week by week review.

18-Month Report: This report goes beyond the Summaries to address a broader list of considerations in demonstrating the operations done negatively impact chemistry or biota of Great Salt Lake.

Operational Adjustment Plan: This plan allows Waterleaf to quickly identify and implement operational changes should negative impact to biota or chemistry be noted.

VII. Public Notice and Comments (to be updated when complete)

As provided for in Utah Admin. Code R317-16-6(2), this Operator Certification Decision is subject to a public notice period. The Director shall consider the comments received during the public notice and comment period in finalizing the Operator Certification Decision, as allowed for in Utah Admin. Code R317-16-6(6).

First Public Notice

Began: July 1, 2026

Ended: July 30, 2026

Second Public Notice

Began: August 21, 2026

Ended: Month Day, Year

Comments will be received at:

195 North 1950 West
PO Box 144870
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4870

Summary of Public Notice Comments Received:

Description of Changes:

PND DRAFT