

# STATE OF COLORADO

## DIVISION OF RECLAMATION, MINING AND SAFETY

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman St., Room 215  
Denver, Colorado 80203  
Phone: (303) 866-3567  
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November 4, 2013

Town of Paonia  
P.O. Box 460  
Paonia, CO 81428

John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor

Mike King  
Executive Director

Loretta E. Pineda  
Director

**Re: West Elk Mine (Permit No. C-1980-007)**  
**Revision: MR-401**  
**RPEE Drainage Modification.**

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety has received a revision for the West Elk Mine. The revision was deemed complete on November 4, 2013. The decision due date is November 14, 2013.

The Mountain Coal Company, LLC has submitted a Minor Revision to the West Elk Mine's permit. The revision proposes to eliminate the lower portion of the half-culvert RPEE ditch that flows into the RPE Pond. This lower portion of the half-culvert will be replaced with a compact clay and riprap lined ditch of the same dimensions as the current half-culvert. Mountain Coal is proposing the ditch segment to help secure the end of the half-culvert and dissipate flows from the half-culvert prior to water entering the pond. There is no proposed increase in the mine's permitted or disturbed boundaries as a result of this revision. Since there is already a liability cost included in the mine's reclamation cost estimate for the removal of the half-culvert, there will be no increase in the mine's reclamation liability as a result of the changes proposed in this revision.

This revision application is available for review at the Gunnison County Clerk and Recorder, 221 N. Wisconsin, Gunnison, CO 81230.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James R. Stark", enclosed within a blue oval.

James R. Stark  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Jim.stark@state.co.us

C-CL-01