

# STATE OF COLORADO

## DIVISION OF RECLAMATION, MINING AND SAFETY

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman St., Room 215

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March 24, 2014

Alan Boehms  
Office of Surface Mining  
Western Regional Coordinating Center  
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320  
Denver, CO 80202

John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor

Mike King  
Executive Director

Loretta E. Pineda  
Director

**Re: West Elk Mine (Permit No. C-1980-007)  
Technical Revision Application No. 132 (TR-132)  
Revised Longwall Panel E5 MDW Pad and Road Locations**

Dear Mr. Boehms:

The Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety hereby issues notice, in accordance with Title 34, Article 33, Section 118, Paragraph 3, of the Colorado Revised Statutes, that on March 24, 2014, an application to revise coal mining operations at the West Elk Mine was considered complete for the purposes of filing. All review and comment periods as provided in the Act and the Regulations initiate from this date of filing.

The Mountain Coal Company, LLC has submitted a Technical Revision to the West Elk Mine's permit. This revision proposes to change the location of several drill pads and light-use roads for the methane drainage wells in longwall panel E5. The original pad and road locations were approved in Permit Revision 14. This revision proposes to decrease the drill pad disturbance by approximately 7.0 acres and decrease the road disturbance by approximately 0.1 acres. There will be no change in the mine's permit boundary but there will be a change in the mine's disturbance boundary as a result of this revision. There will also be a change in the mine's reclamation liability, which will be calculated by the Division following any technical adequacy issues.

The Underground coal mining operation is on land located approximately 9 miles East of Paonia, Colorado. The permit area is further described as follows:

All or portions of: Sections 9 through 36 (inclusive), Township 13 South, Range 90 West; Sections 23 through 26 (inclusive), Township 13 South, Range 91 West; and Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12, Township 14 South, Range 90 West; all of the 6th Principal Meridian. Located in Gunnison and Delta Counties

The above-mentioned tracts of land are shown on the following USGS 7.5 minute Quadrangle map(s): Somerset.

The Division has interpreted 30 CFR 746.18 to determine that this application as submitted does

not constitute a Mining Plan Action. If the proposal is significantly changed during our review process, we will consult with you on whether a Mining Plan Action should be initiated and direct the applicant to send the revision application materials to your office for review as necessary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops, representing the name James R. Stark.

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