

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

FAX: (303) 832-8106



March 24, 2014

Gunnison County Commissioners
County Commissioner
200 E Virginia
Gunnison, CO 81230

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

Mike King
Executive Director

Loretta E. Pineda
Director

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

Dear Gunnison County Commissioners:

The Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety hereby issues notice, in accordance with Title 34, Article 33, Section 116, Paragraph 4, 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. The revision was submitted by Mountain Coal Company, LLC. 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 applicant is required to publish notice in a local newspaper that this application has been

deemed complete. At the time of publication of this notice, the applicant is additionally required to place a copy of this application at the Gunnison County Clerk and Recorder, 221 N. Wisconsin, Suite C, Gunnison, CO, and at the Division office. For additional information or to provide written comments, contact the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, Room 215, 1313 Sherman Street, Denver, Colorado 80203, (303) 866-3567. In order for us to comply with regulatory time frames, we request that comments be submitted within fifteen (15) days of this letter. If no comments are received by then, we will proceed on the assumption that you have no concerns with, or objections to, the applicant's proposal.

Sincerely,



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