



COLORADO

**Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, CO 80203

May 8, 2014

Mark Tobias
Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation
History Colorado Center
1200 Broadway
Denver, CO 80203

**Re: King Coal Mine (Permit No. C-1981-035)
Technical Revision No. 22 (TR-22)
Exploration Drill Holes (9)**

Dear Mr. Tobias:

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 May 8, 2014 an application to revise coal mining operations at the King Coal Mine was considered complete for the purposes of filing. The revision was submitted by GCC Energy, LLC. All review and comment periods as provided in the Act and the Regulations initiate from this date of filing.

With this revision, the applicant requests approval for drilling up to nine exploration boreholes for the purpose of evaluating coal reserves within the approved permit area. The affected land is owned by the State of Colorado. Access to the proposed drill sites will be made by utilizing existing dirt roads. The applicant is proposing 2.1 acres of additional surface disturbance outside of the area currently approved for disturbance.

The underground coal mining operation is on land located approximately 6 miles Southwest of Hesperus, Colorado. The permit area is further described as follows:

Portions of Sections 5, 6, 7 and 8, Township 34 North, Range 11 West; portions of Sections 28, 29, 31 and 32, Township 35 North, Range 11 West; and portions of Sections 35 and 36, Township 35 North, Range 12 West; New Mexico Principal Meridian. The applicant is proposing additional surface disturbance outside of the area currently approved for disturbance.



The above-mentioned tracts of land are shown on the following USGS 7.5 minute Quadrangle map(s): Thompson Park, Hesperus, Mormon Reservoir, and Kline.

Because the above-referenced technical revision application would incorporate additional lands into the permit area or might otherwise alter previously approved permit conditions or mitigation measures, we are requesting your agency's evaluation of the potential for impacts to cultural and historic resources.

In accordance with the May 1991 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between our agencies, we must have your concurrence in order to approve this proposal. We are required to make a finding that "the proposed operations will not adversely affect any publicly owned park or place listed on or those places eligible for listing, as determined by the SHPO, on the National Register of Historic Places, unless approved jointly by the Board and the Federal, State, or local agency with jurisdiction over the park or place." Therefore, we request that you submit comments regarding your concurrence with, concerns with, or objections to this proposal. In order that we may 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. Please refer to the MOU when undertaking your review.

Pertinent portions of the permit application are available electronically on our web site: <http://mining.state.co.us/Reports/MiningData/Pages/ImagedDocumentData.aspx> Documents can be sorted by name or by Section/Exhibit number. A user's guide for our imaging system is also available in pdf format at the same web address. Please advise us if you require additional information.

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 La Plata County Clerk and Recorder, 98 Everett Street, Suite C, Durango, CO 81303, 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.

Sincerely,



Marcia L. Talvitie, P.E.
Environmental Protection Specialist
Marcia.talvitie@state.co.us