



COLORADO

**Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, CO 80203

May 8, 2014

Assistant State Supervisor
Fish and Wildlife Enhancement
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
445 W. Gunnison Ave
Grand Junction, CO 81501-5720

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

Dear Sir or Madam:

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 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, the Division is coordinating with the Office of Surface Mining on evaluation of the potential for impacts to threatened or endangered species of plants or animals, or wildlife species otherwise protected by federal law. A copy of the permit section addressing potential effects of the operation to threatened and endangered (T&E) species has been forwarded to the Office of Surface Mining. The OSM will prepare the biological assessment necessary for approval based on the information provided in the application, and OSM will coordinate with your office as necessary. This coordination is required to ensure mitigation of potential impacts to federally protected wildlife species.

The applicant is required to publish notice in the *Durango Herald* 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. In order for us to comply with regulatory time frames, we request that comments be submitted within ten (10) days of this letter.

Please contact me at the number above if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



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