



COLORADO

**Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, CO 80203

May 19, 2014

Patt Dorsey
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Southwest Region Manager
SW Region Administrative Office
415 Turner Drive
Durango, CO 81303

**Re: New Horizon North Mine (Permit No. C-2010-089)
Technical Revision No. 6 (TR-6)
Changes to pond and ditch designs, the surface water monitoring plan, pit limits and
ARR due date**

Dear Ms. Dorsey:

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 19, 2014 an application to revise coal mining operations at the New Horizon North Mine was considered complete for the purposes of filing. The revision was submitted by Western Fuels-Colorado, LLC. All review and comment periods as provided in the Act and the Regulations initiate from this date of filing.

TR-6 proposes changes to: the design of Pond NHN-002 and associated ditches, the surface water monitoring plan, pit limits, and the due date for Annual Reclamation Reports. The applicant is proposing additional surface disturbance outside of the area currently approved for disturbance.

The surface coal mining operation is on land located approximately 2.5 miles Northwest of Nucla. The permit area is further described as follows:

Portions of Sections 25 and 36, T 47 N, R 16 W, N.M.P.M.

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



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 proposal. Your comments and concerns relating to the adequacy of fish and wildlife resources information, the fish and wildlife plan, and the reclamation plan as it relates to fish and wildlife considerations, including potential impacts to threatened or endangered species, are requested. If wildlife habitat is the proposed postmining land use, we request your evaluation of proposed woody plant stocking levels, planting arrangements, and methods for mitigation of potential adverse impacts.

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 Montrose County Courthouse, 300 Main Street, Nucla, CO 81424, 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert D. Zuber".

Robert D. Zuber, P.E.
Environmental Protection Specialist
Rob.zuber@state.co.us