



COLORADO

**Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, CO 80203

May 19, 2014

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

**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 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 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, 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 *San Miguel Basin Forum* 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 ten (10) days of this letter.

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

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