



COLORADO

**Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, CO 80203

June 10, 2014

Ron Velarde
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Northwest Region Manager
NW Region Administrative Office
711 Independent Ave.
Grand Junction, CO 81505

Re: West Elk Mine (Permit No. C-1980-007)
Technical Revision No. 134 (TR-134)
Revised Longwall Panel E6 MDW Pad Locations.

Dear Mr. Velarde:

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 June 10, 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. The revision proposes to change the location of two methane drainage well pads and four wells for longwall panel E6. They are proposing to move the first two pads approximately 400 feet to the west. These pads will be used for wells E6-1, E6-2, E6-3 and E6-4. The overall acreage of the pads will not change. The acreage and location of the associated light-use roads will not be changed. There are no proposed changes to the mine's permitted, affected or disturbed acreages as a result of this revision. There will be an increase in the mine's reclamation liability as a result of this revision. The increase will be determined by the Division during the technical adequacy review. The applicant is not proposing additional surface disturbance outside of the area currently approved for disturbance.

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.

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 Gunnison County Clerk and Recorder, 221 N. Wisconsin, Suite C, Gunnison, CO 81230, 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