



COLORADO

**Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, CO 80203

July 23, 2014

Alan Boehms
Office of Surface Mining
Western Regional Coordinating Center
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202

**Re: West Elk Mine (Permit No. C-1980-007)
Technical Revision Application No. 135 (TR-135)
Revised Longwall Panel E6 MDW Pad and Road Locations**

Dear Mr. Boehms:

The Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety hereby issues notice, in accordance with Title 34, Article 33, Section 118, Paragraph 3, of the Colorado Revised Statutes, that on July 21, 2014, an application to revise coal mining operations at the West Elk Mine was considered complete for the purposes of filing. 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's permit. The revision proposes to change the location of four MDW drill pads and light-use roads. The original pad and road locations were approved with Permit Revision 14. The proposed pad and road locations were laid out in the field with the assistance and approval of US Forest Service personnel. There will be no changes in the mine's permitted or affected acreages. With the proposed changes there will be a decrease in the mine's disturbed acreage of 0.8 acres. There will be an increase in the mine's reclamation liability as a result of the proposed changes. This liability increase will be determined 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.

The Division has interpreted 30 CFR 746.18 to determine that this application as submitted does not constitute a Mining Plan Action. If the proposal is significantly changed during our review process, we will consult with you on whether a Mining Plan Action should be initiated and direct the applicant to send the revision application materials to your office for review as necessary.

Sincerely,



James R. Stark
Environmental Protection Specialist
Jim.stark@state.co.us