



COLORADO

**Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, CO 80203

December 4, 2014

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

**Re: Peabody Sage Creek Mine (Permit No. C-2009-087)
Technical Revision No. 8 (TR-8)
Vegetation Success Criteria for Solid Waste Disposal Area.**

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 December 4, 2014 an application to revise coal mining operations at the Peabody Sage Creek Mine was considered complete for the purposes of filing. The revision was submitted by Peabody Sage Creek Mining, LLC. All review and comment periods as provided in the Act and the Regulations initiate from this date of filing.

Technical Revision No. 8 requests a modification to the vegetation success criteria for the reclaimed solid waste disposal area. The disposal area was the final reclaimed and seeded area associated with the surface mining activities, having been seeded in 2008. PSCM proposes the vegetation success criteria be changed to that of the more recently disturbed areas associated with the underground mining disturbances. 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 Southeast of Hayden. The permit area is further described as follows:

Township 5 North, Range 87 West, all or portions of Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 21 and 22; Township 6 North, Range 87 West, all or portions of Sections 27, 28, 29, 32, 33, 34, 35 and 36



Approximately 9 miles south and east of the town of Hayden, CO to the East of Routt County Road 27 at an approximate elevation of 6800 feet AMSL Mount Harris/Milner Quadrangle Map

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

Because the above referenced technical revision application may 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 any changes to 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 Routt County Clerk and Recorder, P.O. Box 773598, Steamboat Springs, CO 80477, 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 "Jason D. Musick", is positioned above the typed name.

Jason D. Musick
Environmental Protection Specialist
Jason.musick@state.co.us