



**COLORADO**

**Division of Reclamation,  
Mining and Safety**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215  
Denver, CO 80203

March 13, 2015

Bill Clark  
Colorado Parks and Wildlife  
Habitat Biologist - Glenwood Springs - Area 8  
711 Independent Ave.  
Grand Junction, CO 81505

**Re: New Horizon Mine (Permit No. C-1981-008)  
Technical Revision No. 66 (TR-66)  
Dryland Pasture Reference Area**

Dear Mr. Clark:

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 March 13, 2015 an application to revise coal mining operations at the New Horizon 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.

Western Fuels-Colorado (WFC) is proposing a new dryland pasture reference area for the New Horizon Mine. The currently approved reference area is located at the Nucla Airport and WFC is unable to control the area as required by Rule 4.15.7(3)(b)(ii). The applicant is not proposing additional surface disturbance outside of the area currently approved for disturbance.

The surface coal mining operation is on land located approximately 1.7 miles Northwest of Nucla, Colorado. The permit area is further described as follows:

1.7 miles northwest of the Town of Nucla

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 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 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,



Brock F. Bowles  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Brock.bowles@state.co.us