



COLORADO

**Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, CO 80203

March 25, 2015

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

**Re: Colowyo Coal Mine (Permit No. C-1981-019)
Permit Revision Application No. 4 (PR-4)
Collom Mine Plan Revision**

Dear Mr. Velarde:

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 March 25, 2015, an application to revise coal mining operations at the Colowyo Coal 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.

Colowyo proposes a revision to the mine plan for the Collom area. This entails removal of one of the planned pits (Little Collom X), a significant decrease in the size of the proposed spoil pile, and all associated changes, including sediment control structures. 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 28 miles South of Craig, Colorado. The permit area is further described as follows:

All or portions of Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 28, 29, and 30 in Township 3 North, Range 93 West; Sections 7, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, and 34 in Township 4 North, Range 93 West; Sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 22, and 23 in Township 3 North, Range 94 West; and Sections 12, 13, 23, 24, 25, 26,



27, 34, 35, and 36 in Township 4 North, Range 94 West (all in 6th Prime Meridian).

The above-mentioned tracts of land are shown on the following USGS 7.5 minute Quadrangle map(s): Easton Gulch, Axial, Devils Hole Gulch, Ninemile Gap.

Because the above referenced permit 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. Your evaluation of any changes to woody plant stocking levels, planting arrangements, and methods for mitigation of potential adverse impacts is also requested.

In order for us to comply with regulatory time frames, we request that comments be submitted to the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety at the above address by 5:00 p.m. on May 24, 2015. If no comments are received by this date, we will proceed on the assumption that your agency has no concerns with or objections to the applicant's proposal.

A copy of the entire revision application is available for public inspection at the Rio Blanco County Clerk and Recorder, 500 Main Street, Meeker, CO 81641; Moffat County Clerk and Recorder, 221 W Victory Way, Craig, CO 81625 and at the Division office. For additional information, to provide written comments, or to request an informal conference, contact the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, Room 215, 1313 Sherman Street, Denver, Colorado 80203, (303) 866-3567, within thirty (30) days after the last public notice in the *Craig Daily Press* and *Rio Blanco Herald-Times*.

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