



**COLORADO**

**Division of Reclamation,  
Mining and Safety**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215  
Denver, CO 80203

March 25, 2015

Assistant State Supervisor  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ecological Services  
445 W. Gunnison Ave, Suite 240  
Grand Junction, CO 81501-5711

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

Dear Sir or Madam:

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, the Division is coordinating with the Office of Surface Mining on evaluation of the potential for impacts to threatened or endangered species of plants or animals, or wildlife species otherwise protected by federal law. A copy of the permit section addressing potential effects of the operation to threatened and endangered (T&E) species has been forwarded to the Office of Surface Mining. The OSM will prepare any biological assessment necessary for approval based on the information provided in the application. The OSM will coordinate with your office as necessary. This coordination is required to ensure mitigation of potential impacts to federally protected wildlife species.

The applicant is required to publish notice in the *Craig Daily Press and Rio Blanco Herald-Times* that this permit revision 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 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 or to provide written comments, or request an informal conference, 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 thirty (30) days of the last publication mentioned above.

Please contact me at the number above if you have any questions.

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