



COLORADO

**Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, CO 80203

April 20, 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)
Technical Revision No. 105 (TR-105)
Post Mine Topography Modifications**

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 April 20, 2015 an application to revise coal mining operations at the Colowyo Coal Mine was considered complete for the purposes of filing. The revision was submitted by Colowyo Coal Company L.P.. All review and comment periods as provided in the Act and the Regulations initiate from this date of filing.

The Colowyo Coal Company, LP has submitted a Technical Revision to the Colowyo Mine permit. The revision proposes changes to the approved post-mining topography and associated post-mining drainage channels in the East Pit, West Pit and South Taylor Pit of the Colowyo Mine. There are no proposed changes to the mine's permitted, affected or disturbed acreages. The Division will address any changes to the mine's reclamation liability during technical adequacy. 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 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 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 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, 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,



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