



**COLORADO**

**Division of Reclamation,  
Mining and Safety**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215  
Denver, CO 80203

August 14, 2015

Alan Boehms  
Office of Surface Mining  
Western Regional Coordinating Center  
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320  
Denver, CO 80202

**Re: Elk Creek Mine (Permit No. C-1981-022)  
Technical Revision Application No. 76 (TR-76)  
Post Mining Land Use Changes, Final Reclamation Plan Modifications**

Dear Mr. Boehms:

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 August 13, 2015, an application to revise coal mining operations at the Elk Creek 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.

Oxbow Mining, LLC has submitted a Technical Revision for the Elk Creek Mine. The revision proposes to change the mine's post-mining topography and post-mining land use. These proposed changes are a result of the viability and use of the mine's methane for electricity generation. There are no proposed changes to the mine's permitted, affected or disturbed acreages. The Division will determine if there are any changes in 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 underground coal mining operation is on land located approximately 0 miles North of Somerset, Colorado. The permit area is further described as follows:

Township 12 South, Range 90 West, 6th PM - all or parts of Sections 29 - 32 Township 12 South, Range 91 West, 6th PM - all or parts of Sections 25 - 27 and 34 - 36 Township 13 South, Range 89 West, 6th PM - all or parts of Sections 6 and 7 Township 13 South, Range 90 West, 6th PM -



all or parts of Sections 1 - 12 and 17 Township 13 South, Range 91 West, 6th PM - all or parts of Sections 1 - 3 and 11 - 13

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

The Division has interpreted 30 CFR 746.18 to determine that this application as submitted does not constitute a Mining Plan Action. If the proposal is significantly changed during our review process, we will consult with you on whether a Mining Plan Action should be initiated and direct the applicant to send the revision application materials to your office for review as necessary.

Sincerely,



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