



COLORADO

**Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, CO 80203

August 14, 2015

Gunnison County Commissioners
County Commissioner
200 E Virginia
Gunnison, CO 81230

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

Dear Gunnison County Commissioners:

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 August 13, 2015 an application to revise coal mining operations at the Elk Creek Mine was considered complete for the purposes of filing. The revision was submitted by Oxbow Mining, LLC. 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 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 Gunnison County Clerk and Recorder, 221 N. Wisconsin, Suite C, Gunnison, CO 81230; Delta County Clerk and Recorder, 501 Palmer Street, #211, Delta, CO 81416; Paonia Public Library, 2 3rd Street, Paonia, CO 81428, 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