



**COLORADO**

**Division of Reclamation,  
Mining and Safety**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215  
Denver, CO 80203

August 25, 2015

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

**Re: Foidel Creek Mine (Permit No. C-1982-056)  
Permit Revision Application No. 11 (PR-11)  
Permit Revision for Development and Mining of the Wolf Creek Reserve**

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 August 25, 2015, an application to revise coal mining operations at the Foidel 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.

Permit Revision No. 11 (PR-11) revises the mining plan to include progressive development and longwall mining of the Wolf Creek Coal Seam Reserve. The requested revision addresses mining of three of the initial panels (WC-9RT, 8RT and 7RT (partial)) developed under TR-83; subsequent development (or partial development) of three additional panels in the Wolf Creek Reserve (WC-6RT through 4RT); and mining of Twentymile Coal LLC's owned and leased State and fee reserves in Panels WC-7RT (remainder), and 6RT through 4RT (eastern). The revision also includes development of an internal underground ventilation and utility shaft in the Wolf Creek main entries adjacent to the WC-8RT Panel and an adjustment to shift a segment of the eastern Permit Boundary to the east 160 acres. These proposed operations are projected to affect an additional 150 acres underground. This phase of the Wolf Creek operations will not require construction of any new surface facilities. However, longwall mining operations will result in controlled incremental subsidence of overlying areas; some of which have previously been



subsidied by recent mining operations in the Wadge Coal Seam. The coal reserves in T5N, R86W, Sections 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 which would be developed and mined under this proposed mine plan are owned by Twentymile Coal LLC or controlled under existing State Coal Lease CO-3229. 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 23 miles Southwest of Steamboat Springs, Colorado. The permit area is further described as follows:

In portions of Sections 7, 8, 9, T4N, R86W; Sections 32 and 33, T6N, R86W; Sections 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 34, 35 and 36 in T5N, R87W; and all of T5N, R86W with the exception of Sections 34, 35, and 36. (move to Quad: Cow Creek, Dunckley, Milner, Mount Harris, and Oak Creek)

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

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 October 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 Routt County Clerk and Recorder, P.O. Box 773598, Steamboat Springs, CO 80477 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 *Steamboat Pilot*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jared Ebert", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jared L. Ebert  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Jared.ebert@state.co.us

C-PR-05B