



COLORADO

**Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, CO 80203

August 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: 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 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 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, 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 *Steamboat Pilot* 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 Routt County Clerk and Recorder, P.O. Box 773598, Steamboat Springs, CO 80477 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, reading "Jared Ebert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

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

C-PR-05C