



**COLORADO**

**Division of Reclamation,  
Mining and Safety**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215  
Denver, CO 80203

October 29, 2015

Assistant State Supervisor  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ecological Services  
445 W. Gunnison Ave, Suite 240  
Grand Junction, CO 81501-5711

**Re: King Coal Mine (Permit No. C-1981-035)  
Technical Revision No. 26 (TR-26)  
Update Hydrologic Monitoring Locations & Protocol.**

Dear Sir or Madam:

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 October 29, 2015 an application to revise coal mining operations at the King Coal Mine was considered complete for the purposes of filing. The revision was submitted by GCC Energy, LLC. All review and comment periods as provided in the Act and the Regulations initiate from this date of filing.

Technical Revision 26 (TR 26) proposes to add surface and ground water monitoring wells on lands owned by State of Colorado Lease CO-3388, Bureau of Land Management, and Theodore and Nancy Wiedemann. This drilling program involves completion of 4 clusters of 3 wells each, numbered MW-1 thru MW-4, designed as shown in Appendix 4 (5).

Each cluster will consist of one hole drilled in the Menefee formation to just above the "A" coal seam, one will be drilled into the "A" coal seam, and one drilled to below the "A" seam to a depth just above the "B" coal seam.

All four monitoring well clusters will utilize the already disturbed area of the existing roadway thereby minimizing the foot print of disturbance.

The applicant is proposing additional surface disturbance outside of the area currently approved for disturbance.



The underground coal mining operation is on land located approximately 6 miles Southwest of Hesperus, Colorado. The permit area is further described as follows:

Portions of Sections 5, 6, 7 and 8, Township 34 North, Range 11 West; portions of Sections 28, 29, 31 and 32, Township 35 North, Range 11 West; and portions of Sections 35 and 36, Township 35 North, Range 12 West; New Mexico Principal Meridian.

The above-mentioned tracts of land are shown on the following USGS 7.5 minute Quadrangle map(s): Thompson Park, Hesperus, Mormon Reservoir, Kline.

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, 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, and 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 *Durango Herald* 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 La Plata County Clerk and Recorder, 98 Everett Street, Suite C, Durango, CO 81303, 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 ten (10) days of this letter.

Please contact me at the number above if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Robin A. Reilley, GISP  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Robin.reilley@state.co.us