



**COLORADO**

**Division of Reclamation,  
Mining and Safety**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215  
Denver, CO 80203

December 22, 2015

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

**Re: Roadside Portals (Permit No. C-1981-041)  
Technical Revision No. 68 (TR-68)  
Postmining Land Use Change-Pond 8.**

Dear Mr. Velarde:

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 December 22, 2015 an application to revise coal mining operations at the Roadside Portals was considered complete for the purposes of filing. The revision was submitted by Snowcap Coal Company, Inc. All review and comment periods as provided in the Act and the Regulations initiate from this date of filing.

SCC is proposing to change the post-mining land use for former pond 8 from fish and wildlife habitat to commercial. The area is 0.5 acre in size and is adjacent to the agricultural commercial property Kokopelli Farm and Produce. The pre-mining land use of this area was commercial and it will be used to support the commercial agricultural business. 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 5 miles North of Palisade, Colorado. The permit area is further described as follows:

Portions of Sections 26, 27, 28, 34, and 35, T10S, R98W, 6th PM; Portions of Sections 1, 2, 11, 12, and 13, T11S, R98W, 6th PM; Portions of Section 7, T11S, R97W, 6th PM; all in Mesa County.



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

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, 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. If wildlife habitat is the proposed postmining land use, we request your evaluation of any changes to proposed woody plant stocking levels, planting arrangements, and methods for mitigation of potential adverse impacts.

Pertinent portions of the permit application are available electronically on our web site: <http://mining.state.co.us/Reports/MiningData/Pages/ImagedDocumentData.aspx> Documents can be sorted by name or by Section/Exhibit number. A user's guide for our imaging system is also available in pdf format at the same web address. Please advise us if you require additional information.

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 Mesa County Clerk and Recorder, 200 S. Spruce Street, Grand Junction, CO 81501, 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brock Bowles", is written in a cursive style.

Brock F. Bowles  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Brock.bowles@state.co.us