



**COLORADO**

**Division of Reclamation,  
Mining and Safety**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215  
Denver, CO 80203

December 22, 2015

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

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

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 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, 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 *The Daily Sentinel* 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 ten (10) days of this letter.

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

Sincerely,



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