



STATE OF
COLORADO

Musick - DNR, Jason <jason.musick@state.co.us>

Bowie No. 2 Coal Mine (Permit No. C-1996-083), Application for Technical Revision ,No. 110 (TR-110) and Proposal for Installation of Coal Gasification Plant within the Permit Area

1 message

Allison Elliot <brilliot@gmail.com>

Fri, Dec 9, 2016 at 1:44 PM

To: Ginny.brannon@state.co.us

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to whom it may concern:

please find the attached letter in the matter of:

Bowie No. 2 Coal Mine (Permit No. C-1996-083), Application for Technical Revision

No. 110 (TR-110) and Proposal for Installation of Coal Gasification Plant within the Permit Area

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. We look forward to having a public hearing in the North Fork so that the public can better understand to proposal by Bowie Mine.

Sincerely,

Allison Elliot

Board Chair

Western Slope Conservation Center



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**Western Slope Conservation Center
204 Poplar Ave, Paonia, CO 81428**

Ginny Brannon, Director
Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety
1313 Sherman St., Room 215
Denver, CO 80203
Ginny.brannon@state.co.us

Re: Bowie No. 2 Coal Mine (Permit No. C-1996-083), Application for Technical Revision No. 110 (TR-110) and Proposal for Installation of Coal Gasification Plant within the Permit Area

Dear Director Brannon:

Pursuant to the November 30, 2016 notice published in the Delta County Independent, the Western Slope Conservation Center hereby requests a public hearing or series of public hearings on the above-identified application and proposal on behalf of our members and the citizens of Delta County.

From the little information available, we understand that Bowie's proposal is to construct a coal gasification facility on its Bowie No. 2 coal mine site. The company's application reportedly states that the facility, known as a "DAXIOM Plant," will be used to convert coal mine waste to synthetic gas, which is then used to generate either electrical power or diesel/fuel oil. There is a plethora of questions that arise from this proposal, with impacts spanning from economic to environmental, that our members and the public must address to more fully evaluate the potential beneficial and detrimental impacts of the proposal. Not the least of these concerns is the technological feasibility of the proposed operation.

The proposed permit revision has significant implications for air quality, water quality, waste management, and mine reclamation, and because of the location, may affect Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) lands. Due to these concerns, it is prudent that the Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety (DRMS) seek advice and utilize the expertise of additional agencies, including the U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), the BLM, the USFS, the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division (APCD), the Colorado Water Quality Control Division, the Colorado Hazardous Materials and Waste Division, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). A copy of this letter is being forwarded to these agencies.

We also question whether the subject application for Technical Revision No. 110 qualifies more appropriately as a Permit Revision, pursuant to Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board Coal Mining Regulations (revised September 14, 2005; hereinafter referred to as "Colorado coal mining regulations"), Section 2.8.04(6)(b)(ii). This application appears to be potentially more than an "incidental boundary permit revision" as referenced in Section 2.08.4(2) or a "minor permit modification" as referenced in Section 1.04(136) of the Colorado coal mining regulations. Public hearings will permit exploring why this application is more appropriately deemed a Permit Revision due to what a dearth of information indicates to be significant alterations in the surface coal mining and/or reclamation operations that were described in the original permit application.

The Western Slope Conservation Center has over 400 members and worked for 40 years to preserve and protect the water, air, and public lands in Delta County and especially in the North Fork Valley. We have a long history of working cooperatively and effectively with the coal mines in the North Fork Valley to our mutual benefit, permitting responsible mining operations to occur while protecting the environment and quality of life in the valley.

A public hearing or series of public hearings will permit our members and the public to engage in the process, share concerns and gain greater understanding of the proposed project, and is in keeping with what should be a transparent process. Accordingly, on behalf of our members and the Board of Directors of the Western Slope Conservation Center, I request the aforementioned public hearing(s) being conducted on the proposed project.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Elliott
Board Chair

cc:

U.S. Senator Michael Bennet
U.S. Senator Cory Gardner
U.S. Representative Scott Tipton
Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper
Colorado State Representative Millie Hamner
Colorado State Senator Kerry Donovan
David Berry, OSMRE, Western Regional Director
Ruth Welch, BLM, Colorado State Director
Sam Dearstyne, BLM, Acting Field Manager, Uncompahgre Field Office
Scott Armentrout, USFS Supervisor, Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison N.F.
Will Allison, Colorado Air Pollution Control Division Director
Patrick Pfaltzgraff, Colorado Water Quality Control Division Director
Gary Baughman, Colorado Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division Director
Shaun McGrath, EPA, Region 8 Administrator
Jason Musick, DRMS
Delta County Board of County Commissioners
Gunnison County Board of Commissioners