



**COLORADO**

**Division of Reclamation,  
Mining and Safety**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215  
Denver, CO 80203

October 16, 2017

Mr. Tom Bird  
GCC Energy, LLC  
6473 County Road 120  
Hesperus, CO 81326

**Re: King Coal Mine, Review of refuse pile report, Q3 2017**

Dear Mr. Bird:

Thank you for the report regarding the inspection of the Refuse Pile at King I for the third quarter of 2017. I have two comments:

1. In future inspections and reports, I think it would be beneficial for your engineer to assess and discuss the functioning of the underdrain system, both the recently "discovered" rock drain and the pipe that drains to Reach 10.
2. Please consider if the improvements in the ditch of the access roadway to the top of the Refuse Pile are effective. It is unclear if the large boulders will stay in place and also if they allow enough flow capacity in the ditch. These boulders are not like the standard riprap that is found in armored channels. Typically, riprap covers most or all of the soil in the channel without obstructing a large portion of the cross section.

If you have comments or questions, please contact me at [Rob.Zuber@state.co.us](mailto:Rob.Zuber@state.co.us) or 303.866.3567 (x8113).

Sincerely,

Robert D. Zuber, P.E.  
Environmental Protection Specialist II

