



STATE OF
COLORADO

Simmons - DNR, Leigh <leigh.simmons@state.co.us>

West Elk Mine LW Reorientation - PN C-1980-007 - PR-15

1 message

Desty Dyer <ddyer@blm.gov>

Tue, Aug 7, 2018 at 7:23 AM

To: Leigh Simmons <Leigh.Simmons@state.co.us>

Cc: Howard Strand <hstrand@osmre.gov>, "Gray, Daniel E" <degray@fs.fed.us>, Kathy Welt <KWelt@archcoal.com>

Attached is our updated response to include the MCC Proposed Revised Area of Projected Longwall Panels and Proposed MVB Sites.

If you have any questions please contact me.

Desty Dyer

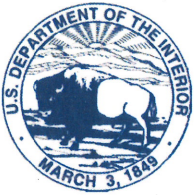
BLM-UFO Mining Engineer

970-240-5302



180806_BLMtoDRMS VerifyChngMinePlanDetermination.pdf

1415K



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
UNCOMPAHGRE FIELD OFFICE
2465 South Townsend
Montrose, CO 81401
www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ufo.html



In Reply Refer to:
3480, COS05000
COC1362 & COC67232

AUG 06 2018

Leigh D. Simmons, EPS
Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety
1313 Sherman Street Room 215
Denver CO 80203

RE: Permit Boundary Expansion – Proposed Revised Area of Projected Longwall Panels and
Proposed MVB Sites – West Elk Mine – PN C-1980-007 – PR-15

Dear Mr. Simmons:

This is to inform you that my staff has updated our May 10, 2018 review of the subject permit revision submitted by Mountain Coal Company (MCC) to revise operations at the West Elk Mine. Our current review includes MCC's submission on July 6, 2018 indicating a proposed change in the longwall layout (Map 51) and their submission on July 23, 2018 providing subsidence studies in detail (Exhibit 55B & Exhibit 60E).

Our verification that the Federal mining leases with rights of surface access were issued effective on December 1, 2017 remains the same. A complaint for declaratory and injunctive relief filed on December 15, 2017 has no court ruling to date. In the meantime, we have determined that the new longwall layout in the proposed mine plan could comply with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, all applicable requirements of both 43 CFR Subpart 3480 and the conditions and special stipulations of the federal leases involved. We also find that maximum economic recovery of the federal coal within the active federal leases COC1362 and COC67232 would be achieved.

These determinations cover the entire leased lands encompassed in PR-15. If you have any questions, please call Desty Dyer at 970-240-5302.

Sincerely,

Gregory Larson
Manager, Uncompahgre Field Office

CC Howard Strand, OSM
Dan Gray, USFS
Kathy Welt, MCC