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Mountain Coal Company, LLC

A subsidiary of Arch Resources, Inc.

West Elk Mine
5174 Highway 133
Somerset, CO 81434

June 30, 2020

Mr. Leigh D. Simmons
Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
Office of Mined Land Reclamation
1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, Colorado 80203

Re: Mountain Coal Company, LLC, West Elk Mine; Permit No. C-1980-007; Water Year 2019 Annual Hydrology Report

Dear Mr. Simmons:

Attached is a technical memo for the 2019 Annual Hydrology Report (AHR) prepared by HydroGeology Solutions, Inc. (formerly HydroGeo) for Mountain Coal Company, LLC (MCC) that provides a summary of the water year 2019 (WY2019) water quality and quantity data, assessments of mine-induced hydrology impacts, along with a summary of MCC's current monitoring program. As has been done the past few years, MCC has reduced the bulk of the report by eliminating repeated general discussions that have been included in past AHRs and have also referenced information in those AHRs if that information has not changed during the past year, rather than providing a duplicate copy this year. As there were no new significant water inflows within the E seam, please reference the mine map in past AHRs. The location of monitored resources can be found on Permit Map 34.

MCC pumped about 250.6 acre feet of its adjudicated water right from the North Fork of the Gunnison River for mine uses, including domestic water, surface dust control and for the underground mine operations – the largest water use. Most of the water pumped in the mine is absorbed in the mined coal and gob, is evaporated in the mine ventilation air and seeps into the mine floor. Along with domestic water and road dust control uses, water is used on the surface in the coal preparation plant. MCC was again successful during WY2019 with maintaining zero discharges (i.e. no CDPS discharges from the mine site) and continued to recycle water from the ponds for use in the Coal Preparation Plant. As a result, it is estimated that less than 50 acre feet were consumed by the mine operations during WY 2019.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at (970) 929-2238 or by e-mail should you have questions regarding this submittal.

Sincerely,

Kathleen G. Welt

Kathleen G. Welt,
Environmental Engineer III

cc: Dan Gray - USFS
John Poulos - MCC