



STATE OF
COLORADO

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C1980007, West Elk Mine, TR-151, Initial Adequacy Review

1 message

Simmons - DNR, Leigh <leigh.simmons@state.co.us>
To: "Poulos, Nicki" <npoulos@archrsc.com>

Tue, Dec 20, 2022 at 2:34 PM

Nicki,

The Division's initial adequacy review of TR-151 is attached.

Leigh Simmons
Environmental Protection Specialist



COLORADO
Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety
Department of Natural Resources

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Adequacy letter, West Elk, TR-151, 1.pdf
465K



COLORADO
**Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety**
Department of Natural Resources

Nicki Poulos
Mountain Coal Company, LLC
5174 Highway 133
Somerset, CO 81434

December 20, 2022

Re: West Elk Mine (Permit No. C-1980-007)
Technical Revision No. 151, (TR-151)
Initial Adequacy Review

Dear Ms. Poulos,

The Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) has completed the initial review of materials submitted by Mountain Coal Company, LLC (MCC) in support of the TR-151 application.

The Division has received correspondence on the application from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

The SHPO correspondence can be viewed using the link below. It recommends that a cultural resource inventory be completed.

https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/drms/0/edoc/1378226/2022-12-05_REVISION%20-%20C1980007.pdf?searchid=d1191365-fd49-4b7e-b3a7-af6200897477

Please address the following adequacy items:

Rule 2.04.4 Cultural and Historic Resource Information

1. Rule 2.04.4(2) states that:

The Division may require the applicant, for good cause shown, to identify and evaluate important historic and archeological resources that may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places through collection of additional information, conducting of field investigations, or other appropriate analyses.

Section 2.04.4 of the currently approved Permit Application Packet (PAP) states that:

There are no known cultural and historic resources within the West Elk Mine permit area listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. There are no known significant archaeological sites existing on any areas proposed or likely to be affected by coal mine development, extraction or subsidence over the life of the mine in this area.



The text goes on to summarize the investigations that have taken place to support the above statement, and refers to the Map 7 series and the Exhibit 10 series. The field investigations documented in the Exhibit 10 series do not appear to cover the area proposed to be affected by proposed longwall panel LWE12. (See figure 1, below).

Please respond to the SHPO recommendation that a cultural resource inventory be completed for the area to be affected by the proposed extension of longwall panel LWE-12. If the area has already been inventoried please update section 2.04.4 of the PAP text to provide a reference.

Rule 2.08.4 Revisions to a Permit

2. On the application form submitted with TR-151 no change in affected area was noted. Since TR-151 proposes a change to the acreage of land to be undermined the actual number of affected acres must be different to the 16,086.85 currently approved.

Please calculate the affected area proposed with TR-151, based on the definition given in 1.04(7), and consistent with the mine plan shown on Maps 50, 51 and 52.

The decision due date for TR-151 is January 6, 2023.

Yours sincerely,



Leigh Simmons
Environmental Protection Specialist

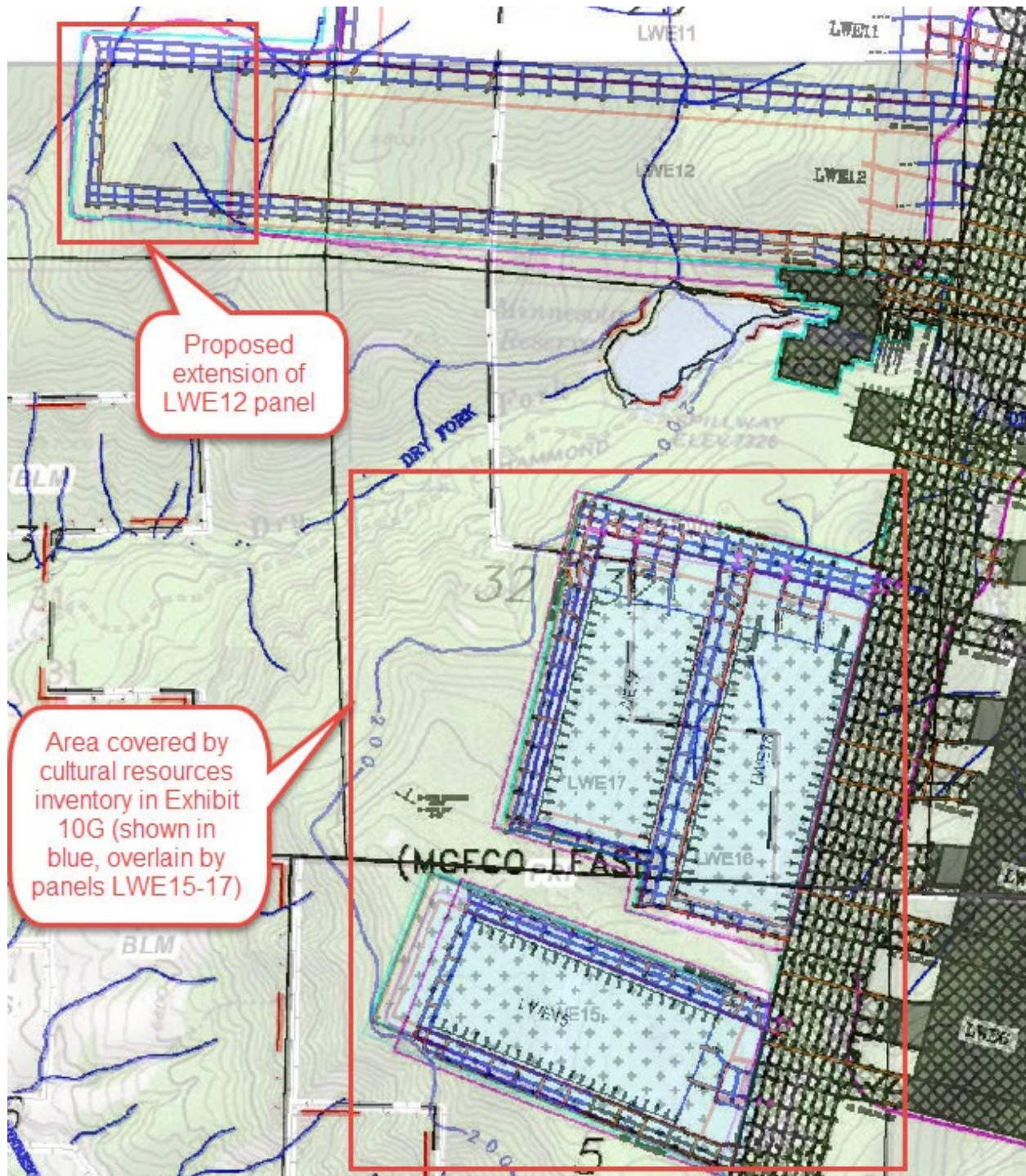


Figure 1: Screenshot of map from Exhibit 10G, overlain with currently approved version of Map 51 and proposed revised version of Map 51. Annotation added.