



STATE OF  
COLORADO

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

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## Spring 2023 Subsidence and Geologic Field Observations Report

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

Fri, Oct 27, 2023 at 2:51 PM

To: Jonathan Kelly <jkelly@wrightwater.com>

Cc: "Wilczek, Jessica" <jwilczek@archrsc.com>

Jonathan, Jessica,

A review letter for the Spring 2023 subsidence report is attached.  
Thank you ,

Leigh Simmons  
Environmental Protection Specialist



**COLORADO**  
Division of Reclamation,  
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Department of Natural Resources

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**SubsidenceReportReview\_2023\_Spring.pdf**  
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**COLORADO**  
**Division of Reclamation,  
Mining and Safety**  
Department of Natural Resources

Jessica Wilczek  
Mountain Coal Company, LLC  
5174 Highway 133  
Somerset, CO 81434

October 27, 2023

**Re: West Elk Mine (Permit No. C-1980-007)**  
**Spring 2023 Subsidence Report**  
**Review**

Dear Ms. Wilczek,

The Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) has completed the review of the Fall 2022 Subsidence Report. The report was submitted to the Division in good time, on September 29, 2023. It was prepared by Jonathan M. Kelly, a licensed professional engineer, of Wright Water Engineers, Inc. (WWE). The report documents field observations made by WWE on July 13, 2023, as well as ongoing monitoring by Mountain Coal Company (MCC) staff.

The report concludes generally that the predictions of subsidence behavior made in the Permit Application (PAP) text and associated Exhibits are borne out by observed subsidence to date, and that field observations made since 1996 continue to validate the conceptual model used to inform the predictions.

It continues to be the case that: no impacts to surface water flows as a result of subsidence have been observed; subsidence effects in the Southern Panels and Sunset Trails areas have been less than those observed in the Box Canyon and Apache Rocks areas; and the healing capacity of the colluvial surface cover in the Southern Panels and Sunset Trails areas is such that subsidence features are nearly imperceptible within a year or two of their formation.

The Division appreciates MCC's continued commitment to subsidence monitoring, and WWE's timely submission of a thorough and well documented report.

Yours sincerely,

Leigh Simmons  
Environmental Protection Specialist

