



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

November 13, 2023

To: Zach Trujillo
From: Leigh Simmons

Request for Assistance
C-1980-007, West Elk Mine, TR-152

Mountain Coal Company has submitted a technical revision application TR-152 for the West Elk Mine. With TR-152, MCC is proposing a change to the mining method by "pillaring", i.e. removing coal from the pillars in the development workings. Up to this point the development workings at West Elk have always been mined in such a way that subsidence would not occur, but if the pillaring proposed with TR-152 is approved subsidence would be expected.

In support of the TR-152 application MCC has submitted a geotechnical study by Agapito Associates:
<https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/drms/ElectronicFile.aspx?dbid=0&docid=1406626>
The study includes an empirical assessment as well as the results of two numerical modeling codes.

Other material submitted with the application is available in Laserfiche, in case you want to review it for context, but it is with the review of the Agapito study specifically that I'd like your help.

I found the application complete today, which means that an initial adequacy review letter is due by December 13, 2023. I would appreciate your comments on or by December 11, 2023, in order to give me time to compile the letter.

