

STATE OF
COLORADO

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Fall 2023 Subsidence and Geologic Field Observations Report

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

Fri, May 3, 2024 at 9:18 AM

To: Jonathan Kelly <jkelly@wrightwater.com>

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

Thank you for the timely submission of the Fall 2023 Subsidence Report.

The Division's review is attached. No issues were noted, and no further action is necessary on your part.

Leigh Simmons
Environmental Protection Specialist



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

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SubsidenceReportReview_2023_Fall.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

May 3, 2024

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

Dear Ms. Wilczek,

The Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) has completed the review of the Fall 2023 Subsidence Report. The report was submitted to the Division in good time, on April 30, 2024. 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 October 10, 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.

As has been reported previously, 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.

It is noted that although the subsidence cracks south of the access road near the chain pillars on the north side of E-seam Longwall Panel E14 showed evidence of healing and/or sealing since the fall 2022 site visit, the larger cracks were still noticeable features within the brush.

Yours sincerely,

Leigh Simmons
Environmental Protection Specialist

