

STATE OF COLORADO

DIVISION OF RECLAMATION, MINING AND SAFETY
Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman St., Room 215
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone: (303) 866-3567
FAX: (303) 832-8106



December 4, 2012

Glenn Williams
Cotter Corp.
P.O. Box 700
Nucla, CO
81424

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

Mike King
Executive Director

Loretta Piñeda
Director

RE: SR-11 Mine, Permit No. M- 1977-451, Comments Regarding 112d-1 Amendment Application (AM1)

Dear Mr. Williams,

On November 29, 2012 the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) received comments regarding the above referenced application from the Colorado Park and Wildlife Area Wildlife Manager (CPW).

Please inform the Division of how the Applicant will respond to the jurisdictional issues presented by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

If you require additional information, have questions or concerns, please contact me at the DRMS Grand Junction Field Office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steph Reigh".

Stephanie Reigh
Environmental Protection Specialist
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
101 South 3rd, Suite 301
Grand Junction, CO 81501
Phone: (970) 242-5025
Fax: (970) 241-1516

Enc. CPW comments dated November 21, 2012

Cc: Ed Cotter, DOE



COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE

2300 S. Townsend Avenue • Montrose, Colorado 81401
Phone 970 252-6000 • FAX 970 252-6053
wildlife.state.co.us • parks.state.co.us

sent
6/19/12

June 18, 2012,

Karen Fischer
O'Connor Design Group
2350 G Road
Grand Junction, CO 81505

Re: SR-11 Mine, Cotter Corporation

Dear Ms. Fischer

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed SR-11 Mine in San Miguel County.

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has reviewed the location of the proposed mine. The area receives limited deer and elk use throughout the year, as well as limited desert bighorn sheep use. Summit Canyon near the mine site receives heavy bighorn sheep use at all times of the year. Impacts to these animals should be minimal.

There are approximately 10 different species of bats that inhabit the area. One species in particular, the Thompsons Big Eared Bat is considered a species of special concern in Colorado. Active mines have been shown to have little to no impact on bats due to continuous human activity in and around active mines. However, inactive mines are often used by bats as either winter roost sites or summer breeding areas. Many of these inactive mines have "bat gates" on them, allowing bats access and denying human disturbance. If bat gates are encountered on any mine shafts, the CPW strongly suggests contacting our field personnel to determine the time of year bats inhabit the area.

There are several existing roads in the area, and the CPW recommends improving existing roads and using those to access the mine sites versus creating new roads. This would help to minimize habitat fragmentation as well as disturbance to existing wildlife.

With the increased human activity at the SR-11 Mine, the spread and control of noxious weeds becomes a concern for wildlife. Invasive plants endanger the ecosystem by disturbing natural processes and jeopardizing the survival of native plants and the wildlife that depends on them. Colorado law requires that invasive noxious weeds are managed and controlled through standard weed maintenance and controls. We recommend that Cotter Corporation continually control noxious weeds near the mine site on any and all roads used.

STATE OF COLORADO

John W. Hickenlooper, Governor • Mike King, Executive Director, Department of Natural Resources
Rick D. Cables, Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Parks and Wildlife Commission: David R. Brougham • Gary Butterworth, Vice-Chair • Chris Castilian
Dorothea Farris • Tim Glenn, Chair • Allan Jones • Bill Kane • Gaspar Perricone • Jim Pribyl • John Singletary
Mark Smith, Secretary • Robert Streeter • Lenna Watson • Dean Wingfield
Ex Officio Members: Mike King and John Salazar

The Dolores River contains three BLM-designated Sensitive Species of fish that are also of great concern to CPW: bluehead sucker, flannelmouth sucker, and roundtail chub. These species are declining and are sensitive to any additional water depletions or changes in water quality in the Dolores River Basin. If any water is necessary for mining operations, or if any discharge of water from the mine is encountered, please contact the BLM and the CPW to discuss how to manage your operations to provide adequate protection for these species.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the proposed SR-11 Mine. If necessary please contact the BLM and the CPW to recommend suitable off-site habitat enhancement projects to mitigate for direct and indirect losses of big game severe winter range habitat. Our field personnel are available to assist you with designing these projects and selecting a location with the highest potential for success.

If you have further questions please contact myself or District Wildlife Manager Tony Bonacquista at (970) 864-7109.

Sincerely



Renzo DelPiccolo
Area Wildlife Manager
970.252.6010

cc: Tony Bonacquista-DWM, Tom Spezze-Southwest Region Manger

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AMd.1

RCO, GRM

November 21, 2012

Bob Oswald
Environmental Protection Specialist
Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
1313 Sherman St. Room 215
Denver, CO. 80203

RECEIVED

✓
NOV 29 2012

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**Division of Reclamation,
Mining & Safety**

RE: Notice of 112d-1 Designated Mining Operation reclamation Permit Amendment
Application Consideration Cotter Corporation, SR-11 Mine, Permit No. M-1977-451 *✓*

Dear Mr. Oswald

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed SR-11 Mine in San Miguel County.

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife has no additional comments to add. Please reference original comments (attached) made and sent to Ms. Karen Fischer, O'Connor Design Group for Cotter Corp. on June 18, 2012.

If you have further questions please contact myself or District Wildlife Manager Tony Bonacquista at (970) 864-7109.

Sincerely

Renzo DelPiccolo
Area Wildlife Manager-Montrose
970 252-6010

cc: Tony Bonacquista-DWM, Tony Gurzick-Acting Regional Manager, John Holtz-Energy Liaison

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Bill Kane, Vice-Chair • Gaspar Perricone • James Pnbyl • John Singletary, Chair
Mark Smith, Secretary • James Vigil • Dean Wingfield • Michelle Zimmerman
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