

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

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August 30, 2013

Ron Thompson
New Elk Coal Company, LLC
12250 Highway 12
Weston, CO 81091

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

Mike King
Executive Director

Loretta E. Pineda
Director

**Re: New Elk Mine (Permit No. C-1981-012)
Permit Renewal Application No. 6 (RN-6)**

Dear Mr. Thompson:

We have received your application to renew your permit to conduct coal mining in Colorado. Our initial review indicates that all preliminary items required by the Colorado Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Act, Section 34-33-101 *et seq.*, C.R.S., have been submitted. Thus, your renewal application has been considered complete for the purposes of filing as of August 30, 2013. All review and comment periods as provided in the Act and the Regulations initiate from this date of filing.

Unless notification to the contrary accompanies this letter, the proposed newspaper advertisement submitted with the application has been found to be satisfactory. You should commence publication of this advertisement as specified in Rule 2.07.3(2) of the Regulations. Proof of the publication of the advertisement must be filed with the Division no later than four weeks after the last publication date.

The Division is currently reviewing your renewal application to determine whether the items you have submitted are adequate in terms of meeting the requirements of the Act and Regulations. Additional information may be required, and in accordance with the provisions of Section 34-33-118(5) of the Act, you will be notified no later than October 29, 2013 should that be the case.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L. Simmons".

Leigh D. Simmons
Environmental Protection Specialist
Leigh.Simmons@state.co.us

C-RN-02