

DECISION DOCUMENT

PERMIT RENEWAL APPLICATION

TransAlta Centralia Mining, LLC

Centralia Mine

FEDERAL PERMIT WA-0001H

Centralia, Washington



**U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement**

November 2020

PERMIT RENEWAL APPLICATION – DECISION DOCUMENT PACKAGE

TransAlta Centralia Mining, LLC - Centralia Mine
Federal Permit WA-0001H

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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT
Interior Region 9
Denver, CO 80225



November 16, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mychal Yellowman, Manager
Indian and Washington Programs Branch
Program Support Division
Western Region

 MYCHAL
YELLOWMAN

FROM: Paul Clark, Leader
Centralia Mine Team
Program Support Division
Western Region

PAUL
CLARK

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PAUL CLARK
Date: 2020.11.17
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SUBJECT: Renewal of Federal Permit WA-0001; Centralia Mine; TransAlta Centralia
Mining, LLC

The Centralia Mine is in Thurston and Lewis counties in Washington State and has been in operation since 1967. The Centralia Mine Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) permit was issued under the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) permanent regulatory program in November 1985 as Federal Permit WA-0001A. The permit was subsequently renewed in November 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, and 2015. The alphanumeric permit identifier for each 5-year renewal was -B, -C, -D, -E, -F, and -G in 2015. Although the permit was renewed in 2010 and 2015 the permit was identified as WA-0001E from 2005 until this permit renewal. Therefore, the permit identified for the permit term 2020 to 2025 is WA-0001H.

On July 14, 2020, TransAlta Centralia Mining, LLC (TCM) applied for renewal of the Centralia Mine Permit; Federal Permit WA-0001 issued under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) for a term of five (5) years, November 21, 2020 thru November 21, 2025.

OSMRE notified TCM that its permit renewal application was administratively complete on September 2, 2020.

By letters dated September 16, 2020 OSMRE informed Tribal, Federal, State and Local government agencies of TCM's pending permit renewal application and requested that these organizations provide comments at their discretion.

TCM published notices of the availability of the permit renewal application for public review and comment in two local newspapers: *The Daily Chronical* (Centralia, Washington) and *The Tenino Independent*. As confirmed by the Affidavits of Publication, these notices appeared on

September 8, September 15, September 22, September 29, 2020 in The Daily Chronicle; and September 9, September 16, September 23, and September 30, 2020 in The Tenino Independent. TCM provided Affidavits of Publication for its 2020 permit renewal application on October 12, 2020.

The public comment period ended on October 30, 2020. No comments or requests for an informal conference from the public were received. OSMRE did not receive comment letters from any Federal, State or Local agencies or from individual members of the general public.

Technical Evaluation

OSMRE completed its review of TCM's Centralia Mine permit renewal application, including review of Compliance, Ownership and Control information, reclamation schedules, mine plan and facilities maps, Certificate of Liability Insurance, and the reclamation cost estimate amount and performance bond value. TCM submitted all information required for a permit renewal application in accordance with 30 CFR 774.15. In its permit renewal application, TCM proposed revisions to its compliance information, including violation history, licenses and permits, identification of interests and Affidavits of Publication. OSMRE completed a technical evaluation of this information on November 16, 2020 and found TCM's revisions to be compliant with the pertinent regulations. OSMRE's technical evaluation is included in this document.

Liability Insurance

TCM has in place Commercial General Liability Policy No. 16687JLT. OSMRE has verified that TCM's Certificate of Liability Insurance is valid through December 31, 2020, is in good standing and meets the criteria of 30 CFR 800.60.

Approved Limited Performance Standard Variances

Five (5) limited variances were approved when OSMRE issued the Centralia Mine permit in 1985 and have been maintained in all subsequent renewals. The limited variances from the performance standards are as follows:

1. Topsoil salvaging requirements in lowland areas;
2. Clearance and scarification requirements for sedimentation ponds and roads;
3. Allowance for sedimentation ponds to contain less than 100 percent of the 10-year, 24-hour precipitation event;
4. Periodic removal of sediment to maintain design capacity; and
5. Foundation construction of impoundments in riparian and wetland areas.

I recommend that these Limited Performance Standard Variances be maintained during this permit renewal term.

Specific Variances from Performance Standards

As part of its issuance of the 1985 Centralia Mine permit, OSMRE granted two specific variances from the performance standards as follows:

1. The performance standards prohibiting mining and reclamation operations within 100 feet of any perennial or intermittent stream. This variance is still valid and will be retained.
2. The performance standards prohibiting mining and reclamation operations within 100 feet, measured horizontally, of the outside right-of-way line of two public roads. These specific variances should be carried forward into the renewed permit. The variance concerning the stream buffer zone was edited when TCM's November 22, 2000 permit renewal was issued to clarify that the variance applies (1) throughout the permit area with respect to construction of sedimentation ponds and roads adjacent to streams in valley bottom areas and (2) to portions of Packwood Creek and North Hanaford Creek as described in the permit application. This variance is still valid and will be retained.

Special Permit Conditions

OSMRE will maintain five Special Permit Conditions from the 2015 permit renewal. The Special Permit Conditions and their recommended disposition are identified below.

Condition #1:

Requirement to report annual drill hole data to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM.)

Disposition: I recommend that Special Permit Condition #1 be maintained as the BLM (federal) coal leases are still in place.

Condition #2:

Requirement for verification for BLM of belt scales used to report coal production.

Disposition: I recommend that Special Permit Condition #2 be maintained as the BLM (federal) coal leases are still in place.

Condition #3:

Requirement of documentation and notification of BLM of the failure to recover leased coal.

Disposition: I recommend that Special Permit Condition #3 be maintained as the BLM (federal) coal leases are still in place.

Condition #4:

Requirement that records substantiate to BLM the reported tons and/or value of Federal coal mined and/or sold.

Disposition: I recommend that Special Permit Condition #4 be maintained as the BLM (federal) coal leases are still in place.

Condition #5:

The permittee must revise its renewed permit to reflect any changes that result from revised wetland mitigation plans approved in permits issued by the Washington Department of Ecology and the U.S Army Corps of Engineers for construction of sedimentation pond 46 and the Kopiah Excess Spoil Fill.

Disposition: I recommend that Condition #5 be maintained. Construction of Pond 46 and the Kopiah Excess Spoil Fill is complete. However, Pond 46 and the Kopiah Excess Spoil Fill will be reclaimed and have not yet received any liability or phased bond release.

Unabated Violations

There are no outstanding or unabated violations issued to Centralia Mine; Federal Permit WA-0001E.

Permit Term

I recommend a five-year permit term for the period November 21, 2020 to November 21, 2025.

Conclusion

As discussed above, OSMRE has completed its review of TCM's Centralia Mine permit renewal application and made written findings. Enclosed within this decision document, is OSMRE's technical evaluation report of TCM's 2020 permit renewal application.

Based on the permit renewal application, the approved PAP, a review of the current and historical record of compliance by the permittee, and inspection of the operations, it has been determined:

- (i) The terms and conditions of the existing permit are being satisfactorily met.
- (ii) The present surface coal mining and reclamation operations comply with the environmental protection standards of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, as amended, and the Washington Federal Program.
- (iii) The requested permit renewal does not jeopardize the operator's continuing ability to comply with the Act and the regulatory program on the existing permit areas.
- (iv) The operator has provided evidence of having liability insurance or self-insurance as required in Section 800.60.
- (v) The operator has provided evidence that the performance bond required to be in effect for the operation will continue in full force and effect for the proposed period of the renewal.
- (vi) The application for renewal of the current permit is complete and accurate and includes all additional revised or updated information required by OSMRE.
- (vii) OSMRE's review confirms that no surface coal mining and reclamation operation owned or controlled by TCM is currently in violation of SMCRA, or any State or Federal law, rule or regulation pertaining to air or water environmental protection, except as provided at 30 CFR 773.14(b)(1) through (b)(4).

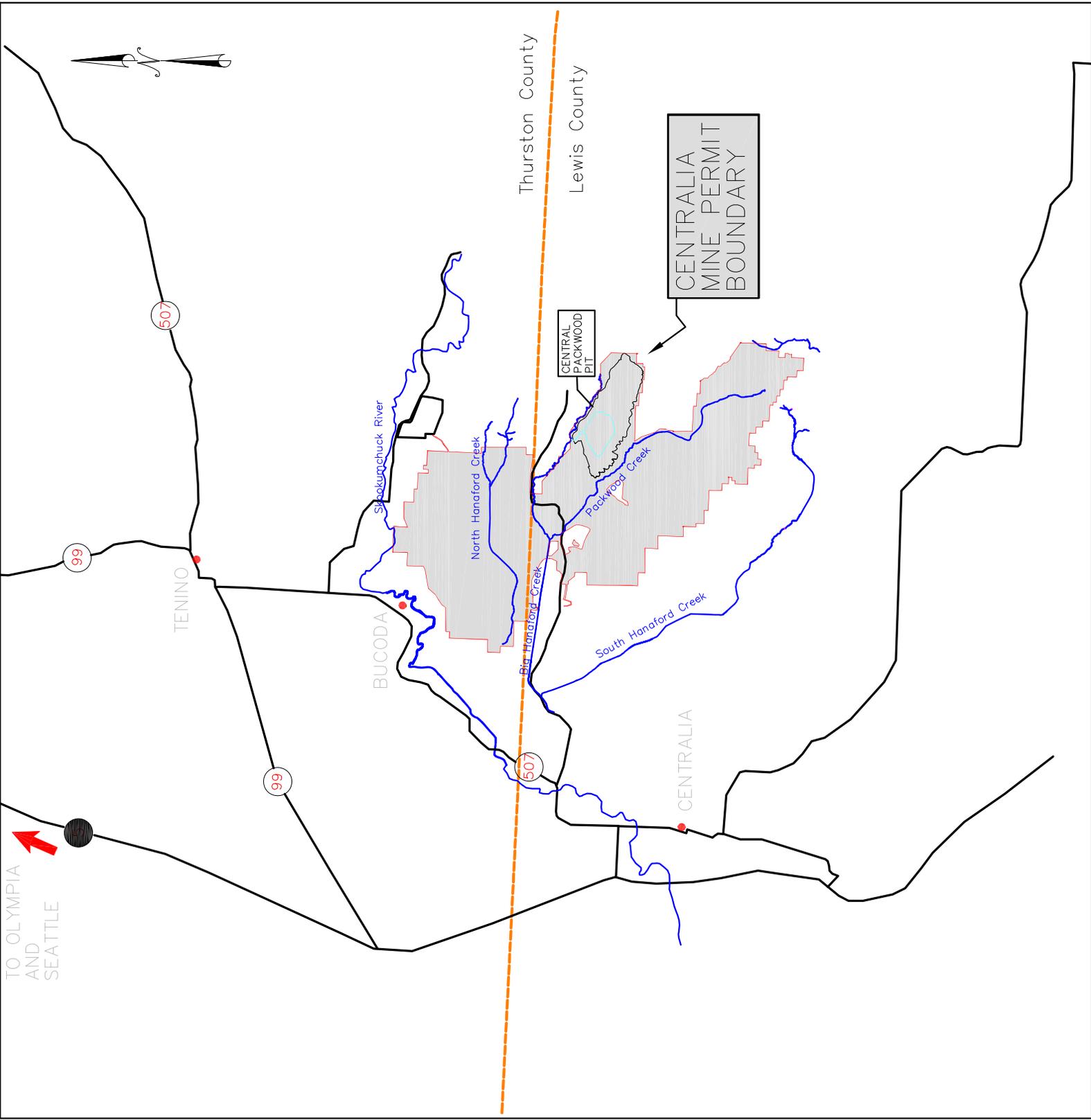
OSMRE's previous National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analyses including the August 1985, June 1988, October 2004, August 2012, May 2019, and June 2020 Environmental Assessments (EA) concluded in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The approval of this renewal application and the continued reclamation of Centralia mine is supported by the findings contained in these NEPA documents. TCM is no longer conducting active, new surface coal mining disturbance at the Centralia Mine. Surface coal mining operations at Centralia mine are limited activities that support reclamation. The approval of the permit renewal application would not change the environmental impacts. A categorical exclusion determination is attached.

Recommendation

In addition to this Memorandum, the following subsections may be found within the decision document prepared for this OSMRE permitting action: 1) Chronology, 2) NEPA compliance information, 3) Findings, 4) Federal Permit with Conditions and Variances, 5) Technical Analysis, 6) Notifications, 7) Agency and Public Comments, and 8) Approval Letter for OSMRE Federal Permit WA-0001H.

I recommend that you make a Categorical Exclusion determination from further environmental documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 in accordance with the Department of the Interior Departmental Manual, 516 DM 13, Section 13.5(B)(11).

Based on OSMRE's review findings as summarized above, I recommend that you sign the Findings and Approval document and Federal Permit WA-0001H, thereby renewing the Centralia Mine SMCRA permit for an additional five years for the permit term November 21, 2020 through November 21, 2025.



**CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS FOR
TRANSALTA CENTRALIA MINING LLC'S (TCM)
CENTRALIA MINE PERMIT RENEWAL**

July 14, 2020	TCM submits permit renewal application.
September 2, 2020	OSMRE notifies TCM that the renewal application is administratively complete.
September 3, 2020	OSMRE begins technical review of the permit renewal application.
September 8, 2020 and September 9, 2020	TCM begins once a week publication of public notice for four (4) consecutive weeks in the Daily Chronicle and Tenino Independent newspapers, respectively.
September 16, 2020	OSMRE notified Tribal, State, local and other Federal agencies of the availability of the administratively complete permit renewal application.
September 8, 15, 22, 29; 2020	Public notification in The Chronicle.
September 9, 16, 23,30; 2020	Public notification in Tenino.
October 12, 2020	TCM sends to OSMRE by e-mail affidavits of publication of the public notices.
October 30, 2020	Public and Agency comment period closes.
November 16, 2020	TCM provides additional reclamation bond surety bond documentation.
November 16, 2020	OSMRE completes a technical evaluation of TCM's reclamation performance bond value.
November 19, 2020	OSMRE informs TCM that its permit renewal application is approved and requests that TCM update and certify its Ownership and Control and compliance information, if necessary, prior to permit issuance.
November 20, 2020	OSMRE issues TCM's Federal permit for the Centralia Mine; federal permit No. WA-0001H, effective November 21, 2020.



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT
Interior Region 9
Denver, CO 80225



Categorical Exclusion Determination 2020 Permit Renewal for TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC's Centralia Mine

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) has reviewed TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC's (TCM) 2020 permit renewal application and has determined the permit renewal action to be categorically excluded from further environmental documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) in accordance with the Department of the Interior Departmental Manual, 516 DM 6, Appendix 8, Section 8.4B(11). The environmental impacts of continued surface coal mining and reclamation operations are adequately analyzed in the August 1985, June 1988, October 2004, October 2012, July 2019, and June 2020 Environmental Assessments prepared for approval of the Centralia Mine permit application. Because TCM discontinued all mining operations at the Centralia Mine in November 2006 and has, since then, conducted reclamation-only operations, TCM never realized the approved worst case disturbance scenario at the Centralia Mine. OSMRE's approval of the permit renewal application would not result in increased environmental impacts.

November 17, 2020

Date

**MYCHAL
YELLOWMAN**

Mychal Yellowman
Manager, Indian and Washington Programs Branch
OSMRE Western Region



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT
Interior Region 9
Denver, CO 80225



Approval Findings of the 2020 Permit Renewal Application for TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC's Centralia Mine Washington Federal Permit WA-0001H

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) has reviewed TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC's (TCM) 2020 permit renewal application for the Centralia Mine. OSMRE has determined that there is no basis for denying the requested renewal. Based on the permit renewal application, the currently approved permit application, a review of the current and historical record of compliance by the permittee, and inspection of the current operations, it has been determined:

1. The terms and conditions of the existing permit are being satisfactorily met.
2. The present surface coal mining and reclamation operations comply with the environmental protection standards of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (the Act), as amended, and the Federal Program for the State of Washington (30 CFR Chapter VII, Part 947).
3. The requested renewal does not jeopardize the operator's continuing ability to comply with the Act and the regulatory program on the existing permit areas.
4. The operator has provided evidence of having liability insurance or self-insurance as required in Section 800.60 of this Chapter.
5. The operator has provided evidence that the performance bond required to be in effect for the operation will continue in full force and effect for the proposed period of renewal, and the additional bond documentation required for the renewal has been provided.
6. The application for renewal of the current permit is complete and accurate and includes all additional revised or updated information required by OSMRE.
7. No surface coal mining and reclamation operation owned or controlled TCM or its Parent is currently in violation of SMCRA, or any State or Federal law, rule or regulation pertaining to air or water environmental protection except as provided in 30 CFR 773.15(b)(1)(I) and (ii).

Renewal of Federal Permit No. WA-0001H is hereby approved.

November 17, 2020

Date

**MYCHAL
YELLOWMAN**

Mychal Yellowman
Manager, Indian and Washington Programs Branch

**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND
ENFORCEMENT**

FEDERAL PERMIT FOR SURFACE COAL MINING OPERATIONS

Permit Number: WA-0001H
Effective Date: 11/21/2020
Expiration Date: 11/21/2025

Permit Term: 5 years

Permittee: TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC
913 Big Hanaford Road
Centralia, WA 98531-9100

Operator: TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC
1015 Big Hanaford Road
Centralia, WA 98531-9100

Operation Name: Centralia Mine

General Location: Lewis/Thurston Counties, Washington

The legal description below describes the permit boundary as approved in TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC's permit.

T.15 N., R.1 W.	All of Sections 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, and 32; Portions of Sections 7, 8, 9, 15, 18, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34 and 35
T.15 N., R.2 W.	Portions of Sections 13, 24, and 25;
T.14 N., R.1 W.	All of Sections 4 and 10; Portions of Sections 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 23.

Williamette Meridian.

1. **STATUTES AND REGULATIONS** - This permit is issued pursuant to the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA), 30 U.S.C. § 1201, et seq., and the Federal Program 30 CFR Part 947. This permit is subject to all applicable laws and regulations that are now or hereafter in force, even though not specifically referenced herein.

2. **AUTHORIZATION** - This permit authorizes those surface coal mining and reclamation operations only as described in the application for this permit approved by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) on 11/22/85 except to the extent directed otherwise in this permit. The permit application approved is incorporated by reference into this permit. The permit area for the Centralia Mine consists of approximately 12,993 acres, as shown on the location map(s).

In approving the application for this permit OSMRE grants five limited variances from the performance standards, in accordance with the Federal regulations under 30 CFR § 947.700(g), of the Federal Program in the State of Washington as follows: (a) from the topsoil salvaging requirements in lowland areas; (b) from the clearance and scarification requirements for sedimentation ponds and roads; (c) to allow sedimentation ponds to contain less than 100 percent of the 10-year, 24-hour precipitation event; (d) from periodic removal of sediment to maintain design capacity; and (e) from the requirements concerning foundation construction of impoundments in riparian and wetland areas.

In approving the application for this permit OSMRE also grants two specific variances from the performance standards as follows: (1) a variance from the performance standards under 30 CFR § 816.57 prohibiting mining and reclamation operations within 100 feet of any perennial or intermittent stream as approved in the permit application; and (2) a variance from the performance standards under 30 CFR § 761.11(d) prohibiting mining and reclamation operations within 100 feet, measured horizontally, of the outside right-of-way line of the "Tono-Bucoda" and "Big Hanaford" roads, as well as the relocation of segments of these two public roads.

3. **CONDITIONS** - The standard permit conditions at 30 CFR § 947.773.17 are incorporated by reference into this permit. This permit also includes those special conditions required by the terms and conditions of Federal coal leases WA-04322 and OR-6527 and also includes those additional special conditions attached below.

The terms and conditions of this permit are binding on the permittee, its officers, directors, employees, agents, contractors, and subcontractors, and the officers, directors, and employees of its agents, contractors, and subcontractors.

4. **INITIATION OF OPERATIONS** - This permit will terminate if the permittee has not begun the surface coal mining and reclamation operations covered by this permit within 3 years of its effective date. OSMRE may grant a reasonable extension of time for the commencement of operations, in accordance with 30 CFR § 947.773.19(e).

5. **RENEWAL** - This permit may be renewed in accordance with 30 CFR § 947.774.15. An application for renewal shall be filed with OSMRE at least 120 days before the expiration date of this permit.

6. **REVISION** - (a) OSMRE may order reasonable revision of this permit at any time in accordance with 30 CFR § 947.774.11. (b) OSMRE may revise this permit upon application from the permittee in accordance with 30 CFR § 947.774.13.

7. **TRANSFER, ASSIGNMENT, OR SALE** - This permit may be transferred or assigned, or the rights granted herein may be sold, in accordance with 30 CFR § 947.774.17. No transfer, assignment, or sale of rights granted by this permit shall be made without the prior written approval of OSMRE.

8. **SUSPENSION, RECISSION, OR REVOCATION** - This permit may be suspended, rescinded, or revoked by OSMRE in accordance with 30 CFR § 947.773.21 or 30 CFR Chapter VII, Subchapter L.

9. **HISTORIC AND PREHISTORIC RESOURCES PROTECTION** - If a previously unidentified historic or prehistoric resource is discovered during the course of surface coal mining and reclamation operations under this permit, the permittee shall ensure that the resource is not disturbed until authorization to do so is provided by OSMRE. Upon discovery of any such resource, the permittee shall immediately notify OSM of its nature and location. The permittee shall take the action specified by OSMRE to protect the resource.

10. **APPEALS** - The permittee may appeal any decision or action of any official of OSMRE under this permit in accordance with the applicable provisions of 30 CFR §§ 947.773.21(c), 947.842.15(d), 947.843.16, 947.845.19, and 947.846.17(b), 30 CFR Part 775, and 43 CFR Part 4.

11. This Federal Permit No. WA-0001H, issued on November 21, 2020, for the Centralia Mine supersedes Federal Permit No. WA-0001E issued by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement on November 21, 2015, for this same mine.



**MYCHAL
YELLOWMAN**

Manager, Indian and Washington Programs Branch
Western Region
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

November 17, 2020

Date

APPROVED LIMITED PERFORMANCE STANDARD VARIANCES

The limited variances, described below, were granted by OSMRE with the November 22, 1985 issuance of Federal Permit WA-0001A in accordance with the Federal regulations under 30 CFR § 947.700(g), of the Federal Program in the State of Washington, and still remain in effect.

(a) The applicant has requested a variance from the performance standards under 30 CFR § 816.22(a) and 816.150 requiring the removal of vegetative materials and salvaging of topsoil materials prior to the construction of roads or other facilities located in bottom land areas of the approved permit area.

This variance is granted and is limited to only those roads or other facilities constructed in bottom land areas of the approved permit area.

(b) The applicant has requested a variance from the performance standards under 30 CFR § 816.46(b)(6) requiring the removal, regrading and revegetation of lands upon which sedimentation ponds were located in accordance with the applicant's reclamation plan.

This variance is granted to allow sedimentation ponds to fill with sediment and form riparian and wetland areas in accordance with the applicant's approved postmining land use plan.

(c) The applicant has requested a variance from the sedimentation pond design standards under 30 CFR § 816.46(c)(iii)(C) requiring the structure to contain 100 percent of the runoff from the 10-year, 24-hour event.

This variance is granted to allow sedimentation ponds to contain 70 percent of the design event with a variable detention time. All pond discharges, however, must still meet all of the applicable State and Federal effluent limitations.

(d) The applicant has requested a variance from the sedimentation pond standards under 30 CFR § 816.46(c)(iii)(F) requiring the periodic removal of sediments to maintain adequate volume for the design event.

This variance is granted to allow sedimentation ponds to gradually fill with sediments as the need for the sediment ponds ends, so that riparian and wetland areas form in accordance with the applicant's approved postmining land use plan. However, pond discharges must still meet all of the applicable State and Federal effluent limitations.

(e) The applicant has requested a variance from the impoundment standards under 30 CFR § 816.49(a)(6)(ii) requiring that all sedimentation pond foundations be cleared of all vegetative and organic materials and the foundations excavated.

This variance is granted and only applies to those ponds to be located in bottom lands and boggy valleys.

APPROVED SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE STANDARD VARIANCES

These specific variances, described below, were granted by OSMRE with the November 22, 1985 issuance of Federal Permit WA-0001A and still remain in effect.

- (1) The applicant has requested a variance from the performance standards under 30 CFR § 816.57 prohibiting mining and reclamation operations within 100 feet of any perennial or intermittent streams.

This variance is granted throughout the permit area with respect to construction of sedimentation ponds and roads adjacent to streams in valley bottom areas; this variance also permits the relocation and/or diversion of sections of North Hanaford Creek and Packwood Creek as described in the approved permit application package.

- (2) The applicant has requested a variance from the performance standards under 30 CFR § 761.11(d) prohibiting mining and reclamation operations within 100 feet, measured horizontally, of the outside right-of-way line of the "Tono-Bucoda" and "Big Hanaford" roads, as well as the relocation of segments of these public roads as described in the approved permit application package.

This variance is granted and will permit mining and reclamation operations within 100 feet, measured horizontally, of the outside right-of-way line of the "Tono-Bucoda" and "Big Hanaford" roads as well as the relocation of segments of these public roads as described in the approved permit application package.

SPECIAL PERMIT CONDITIONS

The Special Permit Conditions, as described below, are hereby imposed on the permittee upon issuance of Centralia Mine permit WA-0001H and compel the permittee to take special actions unique to the operations conducted under this permit.

Special Condition 1:

The permittee must submit to BLM all drill hole data from Phase 1, 2, or 3. Resource data should be submitted to BLM within 30 days of the end of each calendar year, unless the data relate to and are in close proximity to coal mined during the current royalty reporting period. If the data relate to and are in close proximity to coal mined during the current royalty period, the data should be submitted as soon as available or by the time production is normally reported for royalty purposes, whichever is later.

Special Condition 2:

On a periodic basis (approximately annually), the permittee must independently verify to BLM the accuracy of the belt scales used to report coal production. The results of the verification are to be promptly reported in writing to BLM, together with any corrective or maintenance actions taken as a result of the verification.

Special Condition 3:

Failure to recover coal on the Federal leases for any royalty period shall be documented by the permittee and the BLM shall be notified prior to abandonment of Federal coal if the in-place volume of the unrecovered seam exceeds 5 acre-feet.

Special Condition 4:

The permittee must keep detailed records and make them available to BLM to adequately substantiate the reported tons and/or value of Federal coal mined and/or sold. Documentation required includes volume of coal mined, average plant yield, and quantity and quality of various plant products such that the quantity of Federal coal mined and/or sold can be reasonably verified.

Special Condition 5:

The permittee must revise its permit to reflect any changes that result from revised wetland mitigation plans approved in permits issued by the Washington Department of Ecology and the U.S Army Corps of Engineers for construction of sedimentation pond 46 and the Kopiah Excess Spoil Fill.



United States Department of the Interior



OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
PO Box 25065
Denver, CO 80225-0065

September 2, 2020

WA.0001E

Mr. Dennis N. Morr, Jr.
Senior Environmental Specialist
TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC
Centralia Mine
913 Big Hanaford Road
Centralia, Washington 98531

RE: Administrative Completeness Determination
Application to Renew Federal Permit No. WA.0001E
OSMRE Project No. WA.0001E.3076

Dear Mr. Morr:

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) has received TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC's (TCM) July 14, 2020, application to renew permit Centralia Mine Permit: WA-0001E for the five-year period: November 21, 2020 to November 21, 2025. We have assigned the renewal application OSMRE Project Number WA.0001E.3076.

We have determined that your permit renewal application is Administratively Complete.

Your application is ready for review by the public and local, State, and Federal government agencies. You must now place an advertisement in a newspaper of general circulation in the locality of the Centralia Mine. The advertised public notice must be published at least once a week for four consecutive weeks. The public review and comment period will start when the first advertisement is published and will continue until 30 days after the fourth advertisement is published. We have determined this review and comment period is a reasonable time for the government agencies to review and comment on the application.

Please inform me of the dates that the advertisement will be published as soon as possible after you have ordered publication of the advertisement. We must include in our written notification to other agencies the date by when they must submit comments or objections. We will set a closing date for agency comments to correspond with the date that is 30 days following the last date of publication in the newspapers.

After the fourth advertisement is published, please send us proof of publication. An Affidavit of Publication is the preferred format; it is a one page legal document that is signed and sealed by the newspaper as proof that the notice was published on particular dates and may be requested from the newspaper at the time the advertisement is ordered. We cannot approve your application without the proof of publication.

We will continue to review your renewal application for technical adequacy.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me by email at pclark@osmre.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul Clark
Permit Coordinator – Centralia Mine
Program Support Division

Enclosure:

Administrative Completeness Review

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLETENESS REVIEW

Centralia Mine Permit Renewal Application

1. COMPANY: TransAlta Centralia Mining, LLC (TCM)

2. MINE/OPERATION: Centralia Mine

3. TRACKING SYSTEM INFORMATION

A. OSMRE Project Code (CRSS): WA.0001E.3076

B. Letterhead date of submittal: July 14, 2020

4. TYPE OF APPLICATION/DOCUMENT REVIEWED:

Permit Renewal Application – 5 Year Term

5. Evaluation:

A. Review Criteria: **30 CFR 947.774.15 Permit Renewals**
30 CFR 947.773.6 Public Participation in Permit Processing

B. Materials Reviewed:

Renewal Submission	Regulatory Review Criteria 30 CFR 947:
120-Day Receipt Prior to Renewal	774.15(b)
Name, Address, Permit Number	774.15(b)(2)(i)
Certificate of Liability Insurance	774.15(b)(2)(ii)
Evidence of Performance Bond	774.15(b)(2)(iii)
Public Notice/Newspaper Announcement	773.6(a)(1)(i) through 773.6(a)(1)(iv) and 774.15(b)(2)(iv)
Locations of Public Availability	773.6(a)(2)
Additional or Revised Information	774.15(b)(2)(v)
Public Notice Requirements	774.15(b)(3)
Revisions to the Permit	774.15(b)(4)
Renewal Term (5-Year Term)	774.15(d)

C. ¹No Omissions.

²Omissions:

1.a) Statement of Omission: NA

2b) Discussion: NA

D. REVIEW SIGNATURE:

The parts of the Centralia Mine Application for Permit Renewal are administratively complete, with the respective Review Criteria shown in Part A.



Paul Clark
Permit Coordinator
Centralia Mine



September 1, 2020

NOTE: AT THIS STAGE OF THE REVIEW TECHNICAL ISSUES WILL NOT BE IDENTIFIED DUE TO THE PERMIT FEE RULES AND THE THREE STAGES OF REVIEW FOR WHICH OSMRE IS AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT FEES.

TECHNICAL EVALUATION

2020 Permit Renewal Requirements

1. **COMPANY:** TransAlta Centralia Mining (TCM)

2. **MINE/OPERATION:** Centralia Mine

3. **TRACKING SYSTEM INFORMATION.**

A. **OSMRE Project Number (CRSS):** WA.0001E.3076

B. **Letterhead date of submittal:** July 14, 2020

4. **TYPE OF APPLICATION/DOCUMENT REVIEWED.**

Permit renewal application – reclamation cost estimate

5. **EVALUATION.**

A. **Part of application/document reviewed:**

(1) **Citation of applicable regulations:**

30 CFR 774.15(b)(2) Permit Renewal

(2) **Evaluation of compliance with the requirements of the applicable regulations:**

This review considers the reclamation cost estimate in the approved permit application package as of June 16, 2020 (Volume 1 – Appendix 2.5-2), as well as a Phase I and Phase II bond release application submitted on September 29, 2020.

Evaluation of compliance with the permit application requirements (30 CFR Parts 777 through 784) and performance standards (standards (30 CFR Parts 816 and 817):

Pursuant to 30 USC Paragraph 1526(d) and under 30 CFR Section 774.15, TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC, the holder of Surface Mining Permit No. WA-0001E for the mining of coal and reclamation of the Centralia Coal Mine, dated November 21, 2015 (the “Permit”), applied for renewal of said Permit. TCM provided the following as required by regulation.

Section 774.15(b)(2)(i)

(1) Applicant’s name and address: TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC
913 Big Hanaford Road
Centralia, WA 98531

(2) Renewal of Federal Permit No. WA-0001 is requested for a term of five (5) years, beginning November 21, 2020 and extending through November 21, 2025.

Section 774.15 (b)(2)(ii) – Liability Insurance

TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC’s liability insurance carrier is Jardine Lloyd Thompson Insurance Services Inc. Richard Sharp is TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC’s agent for this policy. A copy of the most recent policy, Certificate of Insurance Policy No. 16687JLT, effective December 31, 2019 to December 31, 2020 was provided and is in full force during the life of the permit.

Section 774.15(b)(2)(iii) – Performance Bond

TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC currently has on file with the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) an approved Surety Bond, effective January 30, 2020. The bond amount is \$147,057,385, issued by:

- (Bond No. 2071181) Surety - North American Specialty Insurance Company, and Swiss Reinsurance America Corporation, in the amount of \$75,000,000;
- (Bond No. 9334763) CO-Surety - Fidelity & Deposit Company of Maryland) in the amount of \$27,371,000;
- (Bond No. 9334763) CO-Surety - Zurich American Insurance Company in the amount of \$44,686,385

The Centralia Mining operations continue to be maintained and reclaimed. OSMRE received a bond release application on September 29, 2020 requesting a reduction for \$1,898,438 (Phase I) and \$1,452,804 (Phase II) in the Central Packwood area. However, due to travel restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be a delay in conducting the necessary site inspection for approval of the application, but reclamation liability may reduce in the future as reclamation reviews are conducted

Section 774.15(b)(2)(iv) – Newspaper Notice, Proof of Publication

Proof of Publication as required was provided from The Chronicle and Tenino Independent as required for four (4) consecutive weeks.

(3) On the basis of the preceding evaluation, I conclude that:

- This part of the application/document complies with the requirements of the applicable regulations.

6. PRIMARY REVIEWER.



 Paul Clark, Permit Coordinator

11-16-2020

 [Date]

Permit Evaluation

There were no violations retrieved by the system

Permit Number: WA0001E SEQ:8
 Permittee Name: 148668 TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC
 Date of Request: 11/10/2020 10:56:10 AM
 Requestor: benjamin.campbell

CAUTION: The Applicant/Violator System (AVS) is an informational database. Permit eligibility determinations are made by the regulatory authority with jurisdiction over the permit application not by the AVS. Results which display outstanding violations may not include critical information about settlements or other conditions that affect permit eligibility. Consult the AVS Office at 800-643-9748 for verification of information prior to making decisions on these results.

Violation Type	Violation Number	Violation Entities	Permit Number	Permitted State	Violation Status	Violation Date
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Evaluation OFT

Entities: 35

148676 TransAlta Corporation - ()
 ---138777 Alan J Fohrer - (Director)
 ---143539 Georgia R Nelson - (Director)
 ---148669 Tecwa Fuel Inc - (Subsidiary Company)
 -----148668 TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC - (Subsidiary Company)
 -----246605 Lori Schmitt - (Secretary)
 -----246726 Mickey Dreher - (Member)
 -----246726 Mickey Dreher - (President)
 -----250969 Todd Stack - (Chief Financial Officer)
 -----263530 Mike Novelli - (Member)
 -----263557 Cody Duncan - (Member)
 -----263557 Cody Duncan - (Treasurer)
 -----246605 Lori Schmitt - (Secretary)
 -----246726 Mickey Dreher - (Director)
 -----246726 Mickey Dreher - (President)
 -----250969 Todd Stack - (Chief Financial Officer)
 -----263530 Mike Novelli - (Director)
 -----263557 Cody Duncan - (Director)
 -----263557 Cody Duncan - (Treasurer)
 ---148682 Dawn Lorraine Farrell - (Chief Executive Officer)
 ---148682 Dawn Lorraine Farrell - (Director)
 ---148682 Dawn Lorraine Farrell - (President)
 ---249225 Dawn de Lima - (Corporate Officer)
 ---249228 Brett Gellner - (Corporate Officer)
 ---250969 Todd Stack - (Chief Financial Officer)
 ---250969 Todd Stack - (Director)
 ---252244 Yakout Mansour - (Director)
 ---253687 John Kousinioris - (Chief Operations Officer)
 ---255970 Aron Willis - (Senior Vice President)
 ---255973 John Dielwart - (Chairman of the Board)
 ---255973 John Dielwart - (Director)
 ---257711 Bev F Park - (Director)
 ---257713 Scott Jeffers - (Secretary)
 ---258198 Robert Flexon - (Director)
 ---261517 Rona Ambrose - (Director)
 ---261518 Bryan Pinney - (Director)
 ---261521 Brent Ward - (Director)
 ---261521 Brent Ward - (Treasurer)
 ---261711 Jane Fedoretz - (Corporate Officer)
 ---261713 Kerry O'Reilly - (Corporate Officer)
 ---263530 Mike Novelli - (Executive Vice President)
 ---263531 Gary Goldout - (Director)
 ---263532 Richard Legault - (Director)
 ---263533 Sandra Sharman - (Director)

254044 COALVIEW LTD LLC - ()
---246606 Roger Fish - (Chief Executive Officer)
---246606 Roger Fish - (Director)
---246606 Roger Fish - (President)
---254046 COALVIEW Centralia LLC - (Subsidiary Company)
-----246606 Roger Fish - (Chief Executive Officer)
-----246606 Roger Fish - (Director)
-----246606 Roger Fish - (President)
-----254047 C David Henry - (Director)
-----254048 Michael Tzougrakis - (Director)
-----254049 David A Schwedel - (Director)
---254047 C David Henry - (Director)
---254048 Michael Tzougrakis - (Director)
---254049 David A Schwedel - (Director)
---254915 Nayan Pathak - (Director)

Narrative



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
PO Box 25065
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065



September 16, 2020

Mr. Dennis N. Morr, Jr.
Senior Environmental Specialist
TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC
913 Big Hanaford Road
Centralia, Washington 98531-9100

RE: Opportunity to Review and Comment
Centralia Mine 2020 Permit Renewal Application
OSMRE Project No. WA0001E.3076

Mr. Morr:

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) has received an application for renewal of Federal permit No. WA-0001E for the Centralia Mine located in Centralia, Washington. The application was submitted by TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC (TCM) by letter dated July 14, 2020. We have determined the application to be administratively complete and are completing our review of the renewal application now.

TCM proposes to renew the permit for the Centralia Mine for a five (5) year period, from November 21, 2020, to November 21, 2025. The Federal regulation at 30 CFR 774.15(a) states that a valid permit, issued pursuant to an approved regulatory program, shall carry with it the right of successive renewal, within the approved boundaries of the existing permit, upon expiration of the term of the permit. The Federal regulation at 30 CFR 774.15(b) sets forth application requirements and 30 CFR 774.15(c) sets forth the approval process including the criteria for approval.

You may submit written comments or renewal objections to us. Also, you may request that we hold an informal conference on the application. Your request for an informal conference must be in writing and must include:

- your name and mailing address;
- a brief summary of the issues to be raised by you; and
- whether you desire to have an informal conference.

Your comments, objections, or request for an informal conference must be sent by October 30, 2020, to:

Mr. Paul Clark, Centralia Mine Permit Coordinator
Program Support Division
P.O. Box 25065
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065

Please respond to Paul Clark at pclark@osmre.gov to request a copy of the renewal application.
You may review a complete copy of the renewal application at:

Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation & Enforcement
Western Region
One Federal Center
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065
Call for Appt. (303) 236-4689

TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC
Centralia Mine
1015 Big Hanaford Road
Centralia, WA 98531
Call for Appt. (360) 330-8209

The Centralia Mine permit area is located about six miles northeast of Centralia, Washington. The attached map shows towns, highways, or other landmarks associated with the location of the permit area as well as the location and boundaries of the permit area. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me by email at pclark@osmre.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul Clark
Centralia Mine Permit Coordinator

Enclosure: Permit Area Map



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
PO Box 25065
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065



September 16, 2020

U. S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration, Region 9
P.O. Box 25367
Denver, CO 80225-0367

RE: Opportunity to Review and Comment
Centralia Mine 2020 Permit Renewal Application
OSMRE Project No. WA0001E.3076

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Paul Clark
Centralia Mine Permit Coordinator

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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
PO Box 25065
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065



September 16, 2020

U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service
Chehalis Field Office
1554 Bishop Rd.
Chehalis, WA 98532-3403

RE: Opportunity to Review and Comment
Centralia Mine 2020 Permit Renewal Application
OSMRE Project No. WA0001E.3076

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Paul Clark
Centralia Mine Permit Coordinator

Enclosure: Permit Area Map



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
PO Box 25065
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065



September 16, 2020

Ms. Patty McGrath
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, WD-126
Seattle, WA 98101

RE: Opportunity to Review and Comment
Centralia Mine 2020 Permit Renewal Application
OSMRE Project No. WA0001E.3076

Ms. McGrath:

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) has received an application for renewal of Federal permit No. WA-0001E for the Centralia Mine located in Centralia, Washington. The application was submitted by TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC (TCM) by letter dated July 14, 2020. We have determined the application to be administratively complete and are completing our review of the renewal application now.

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Program Support Division
P.O. Box 25065
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065

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Lakewood, CO 80225-0065
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Paul Clark
Centralia Mine Permit Coordinator

Enclosure: Permit Area Map



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
PO Box 25065
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065



September 16, 2020

Ms. Pam Repp
U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Western Washington Office
510 Desmond Drive, SE, Suite 102
Lacey, WA 98503-1263

RE: Opportunity to Review and Comment
Centralia Mine 2020 Permit Renewal Application
OSMRE Project No. WA0001E.3076

Ms. Repp:

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) has received an application for renewal of Federal permit No. WA-0001E for the Centralia Mine located in Centralia, Washington. The application was submitted by TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC (TCM) by letter dated July 14, 2020. We have determined the application to be administratively complete and are completing our review of the renewal application now.

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Program Support Division
P.O. Box 25065
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065

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Lakewood, CO 80225-0065
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Sincerely,



Paul Clark
Centralia Mine Permit Coordinator

Enclosure: Permit Area Map



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
PO Box 25065
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065



September 16, 2020

Mr. Jonathan Smith
U.S. Department of the Army
Seattle District Office
Corp of Engineers - Regulatory Branch
4735 East Marginal Way, South
Seattle, WA 98134-2385

RE: Opportunity to Review and Comment
Centralia Mine 2020 Permit Renewal Application
OSMRE Project No. WA0001E.3076

Mr. Smith:

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Mr. Paul Clark, Centralia Mine Permit Coordinator
Program Support Division
P.O. Box 25065
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065

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Sincerely,

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Paul Clark
Centralia Mine Permit Coordinator

Enclosure: Permit Area Map



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
PO Box 25065
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065



September 16, 2020

Mr. Tom Wawro, Geologist
U. S. Bureau of Land Management
Oregon/Washington State Office
333 SW First Avenue
P. O. Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208

RE: Opportunity to Review and Comment
Centralia Mine 2020 Permit Renewal Application
OSMRE Project No. WA0001E.3076

Mr. Wawro:

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) has received an application for renewal of Federal permit No. WA-0001E for the Centralia Mine located in Centralia, Washington. The application was submitted by TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC (TCM) by letter dated July 14, 2020. We have determined the application to be administratively complete and are completing our review of the renewal application now.

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Mr. Paul Clark, Centralia Mine Permit Coordinator
Program Support Division
P.O. Box 25065
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065

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Lakewood, CO 80225-0065
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Sincerely,



Paul Clark
Centralia Mine Permit Coordinator

Enclosure: Permit Area Map



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
PO Box 25065
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065



September 16, 2020

U.S. Department of Commerce
NOAA - National Marine Fisheries Service
510 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 103
Lacey, WA 98503

RE: Opportunity to Review and Comment
Centralia Mine 2020 Permit Renewal Application
OSMRE Project No. WA0001E.3076

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Paul Clark
Centralia Mine Permit Coordinator

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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
PO Box 25065
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065



September 16, 2020

Mr. Mark White, Director
Department of Natural Resources
Federated Tribe of the Chehalis
420 Howanut Road
Oakville, WA 98568

RE: Opportunity to Review and Comment
Centralia Mine 2020 Permit Renewal Application
OSMRE Project No. WA0001E.3076

Mr. White:

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) has received an application for renewal of Federal permit No. WA-0001E for the Centralia Mine located in Centralia, Washington. The application was submitted by TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC (TCM) by letter dated July 14, 2020. We have determined the application to be administratively complete and are completing our review of the renewal application now.

TCM proposes to renew the permit for the Centralia Mine for a five (5) year period, from November 21, 2020, to November 21, 2025. The Federal regulation at 30 CFR 774.15(a) states that a valid permit, issued pursuant to an approved regulatory program, shall carry with it the right of successive renewal, within the approved boundaries of the existing permit, upon expiration of the term of the permit. The Federal regulation at 30 CFR 774.15(b) sets forth application requirements and 30 CFR 774.15(c) sets forth the approval process including the criteria for approval.

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- your name and mailing address;
- a brief summary of the issues to be raised by you; and
- whether you desire to have an informal conference.

Your comments, objections, or request for an informal conference must be sent by October 30, 2020, to:

Mr. Paul Clark, Centralia Mine Permit Coordinator
Program Support Division
P.O. Box 25065
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065

Please respond to Paul Clark at pclark@osmre.gov to request a copy of the renewal application.
You may review a complete copy of the renewal application at:

Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation & Enforcement
Western Region
One Federal Center
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065
Call for Appt. (303) 236-4689

TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC
Centralia Mine
1015 Big Hanaford Road
Centralia, WA 98531
Call for Appt. (360) 330-8209

The Centralia Mine permit area is located about six miles northeast of Centralia, Washington. The attached map shows towns, highways, or other landmarks associated with the location of the permit area as well as the location and boundaries of the permit area. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me by email at pclark@osmre.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul Clark
Centralia Mine Permit Coordinator

Enclosure: Permit Area Map



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
PO Box 25065
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065



September 16, 2020

Mr. Glen Connelly, Director
Department of Natural Resources
Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
P.O. Box 536
Oakville, WA 98568

RE: Opportunity to Review and Comment
Centralia Mine 2020 Permit Renewal Application
OSMRE Project No. WA0001E.3076

Mr. Connelly:

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Paul Clark
Centralia Mine Permit Coordinator

Enclosure: Permit Area Map



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
PO Box 25065
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065



September 16, 2020

Mr. Casey Hanell, State Geologist
Washington Department of Natural Resources
Washington Geological Survey
P.O. Box 47007
Olympia, WA 98504-7007

RE: Opportunity to Review and Comment
Centralia Mine 2020 Permit Renewal Application
OSMRE Project No. WA0001E.3076

Mr. Hanell:

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) has received an application for renewal of Federal permit No. WA-0001E for the Centralia Mine located in Centralia, Washington. The application was submitted by TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC (TCM) by letter dated July 14, 2020. We have determined the application to be administratively complete and are completing our review of the renewal application now.

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Sincerely,



Paul Clark
Centralia Mine Permit Coordinator

Enclosure: Permit Area Map



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
PO Box 25065
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065



September 16, 2020

Mr. Aziz Mahar
Washington Department of Ecology
Southwest Region Manager, Water Quality Program
P. O. Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775

RE: Opportunity to Review and Comment
Centralia Mine 2020 Permit Renewal Application
OSMRE Project No. WA0001E.3076

Mr. Mahar:

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) has received an application for renewal of Federal permit No. WA-0001E for the Centralia Mine located in Centralia, Washington. The application was submitted by TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC (TCM) by letter dated July 14, 2020. We have determined the application to be administratively complete and are completing our review of the renewal application now.

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Program Support Division
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Lakewood, CO 80225-0065

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Sincerely,



Paul Clark
Centralia Mine Permit Coordinator

Enclosure: Permit Area Map



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
PO Box 25065
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065



September 16, 2020

Mr. Robert Witlam
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
PO BOX 48343
Olympia, WA 98504-8343

RE: Opportunity to Review and Comment
Centralia Mine 2020 Permit Renewal Application
OSMRE Project No. WA0001E.3076

Mr. Witlam:

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) has received an application for renewal of Federal permit No. WA-0001E for the Centralia Mine located in Centralia, Washington. The application was submitted by TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC (TCM) by letter dated July 14, 2020. We have determined the application to be administratively complete and are completing our review of the renewal application now.

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Program Support Division
P.O. Box 25065
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065

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Sincerely,



Paul Clark
Centralia Mine Permit Coordinator

Enclosure: Permit Area Map



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
PO Box 25065
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065



September 16, 2020

Mrs. Kessina Lee, Director
Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
Southwest Regional Office
5525 S. 11th Street
Ridgefield, WA 98642

RE: Opportunity to Review and Comment
Centralia Mine 2020 Permit Renewal Application
OSMRE Project No. WA0001E.3076

Mrs. Lee:

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Lakewood, CO 80225-0065

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Sincerely,



Paul Clark
Centralia Mine Permit Coordinator

Enclosure: Permit Area Map



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
PO Box 25065
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065



September 16, 2020

Washington State Department of Labor & Industries
Workplace Health and Safety Division
7273 Linderson Way SW
Tumwater, WA 98501

RE: Opportunity to Review and Comment
Centralia Mine 2020 Permit Renewal Application
OSMRE Project No. WA0001E.3076

To Whom it May Concern:

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Sincerely,

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Paul Clark
Centralia Mine Permit Coordinator

Enclosure: Permit Area Map



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
PO Box 25065
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065



September 16, 2020

Office of the Commissioners
Lewis County Courthouse
351 NW North St
Chehalis, WA 98532

RE: Opportunity to Review and Comment
Centralia Mine 2020 Permit Renewal Application
OSMRE Project No. WA0001E.3076

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Centralia Mine Permit Coordinator

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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
PO Box 25065
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065



September 16, 2020

Office of the Commissioners
Thurston County Courthouse
Building #1 Room 269
2000 Lakeridge Drive, SW
Olympia, WA 98502-1045

RE: Opportunity to Review and Comment
Centralia Mine 2020 Permit Renewal Application
OSMRE Project No. WA0001E.3076

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Paul Clark
Centralia Mine Permit Coordinator

Enclosure: Permit Area Map



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
PO Box 25065
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065



September 16, 2020

Southwest Clean Air Agency
11815 NE 99th Street, Suite 1294
Vancouver, WA 98682

RE: Opportunity to Review and Comment
Centralia Mine 2020 Permit Renewal Application
OSMRE Project No. WA0001E.3076

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Paul Clark
Centralia Mine Permit Coordinator

Enclosure: Permit Area Map



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
PO Box 25065
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065



September 16, 2020

Mr. Art Starry, Director
Thurston County Health Department
Environmental Health Division
2000 Lakeridge Drive SW
Olympia, WA 98502-6045

RE: Opportunity to Review and Comment
Centralia Mine 2020 Permit Renewal Application
OSMRE Project No. WA0001E.3076

Mr. Starry:

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) has received an application for renewal of Federal permit No. WA-0001E for the Centralia Mine located in Centralia, Washington. The application was submitted by TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC (TCM) by letter dated July 14, 2020. We have determined the application to be administratively complete and are completing our review of the renewal application now.

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Paul Clark
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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
PO Box 25065
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065



September 16, 2020

Mrs. Sue Kennedy
Lewis County Health Department
Environmental Health Division
2025 NE Kresky Ave
Chehalis, WA 98532

RE: Opportunity to Review and Comment
Centralia Mine 2020 Permit Renewal Application
OSMRE Project No. WA0001E.3076

Mrs. Kennedy:

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) has received an application for renewal of Federal permit No. WA-0001E for the Centralia Mine located in Centralia, Washington. The application was submitted by TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC (TCM) by letter dated July 14, 2020. We have determined the application to be administratively complete and are completing our review of the renewal application now.

TCM proposes to renew the permit for the Centralia Mine for a five (5) year period, from November 21, 2020, to November 21, 2025. The Federal regulation at 30 CFR 774.15(a) states that a valid permit, issued pursuant to an approved regulatory program, shall carry with it the right of successive renewal, within the approved boundaries of the existing permit, upon expiration of the term of the permit. The Federal regulation at 30 CFR 774.15(b) sets forth application requirements and 30 CFR 774.15(c) sets forth the approval process including the criteria for approval.

You may submit written comments or renewal objections to us. Also, you may request that we hold an informal conference on the application. Your request for an informal conference must be in writing and must include:

- your name and mailing address;
- a brief summary of the issues to be raised by you; and
- whether you desire to have an informal conference.

Your comments, objections, or request for an informal conference must be sent by October 30, 2020, to:

Mr. Paul Clark, Centralia Mine Permit Coordinator
Program Support Division
P.O. Box 25065
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065

Please respond to Paul Clark at pclark@osmre.gov to request a copy of the renewal application.
You may review a complete copy of the renewal application at:

Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation & Enforcement
Western Region
One Federal Center
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065
Call for Appt. (303) 236-4689

TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC
Centralia Mine
1015 Big Hanaford Road
Centralia, WA 98531
Call for Appt. (360) 330-8209

The Centralia Mine permit area is located about six miles northeast of Centralia, Washington. The attached map shows towns, highways, or other landmarks associated with the location of the permit area as well as the location and boundaries of the permit area. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me by email at pclark@osmre.gov.

Sincerely,



Paul Clark
Centralia Mine Permit Coordinator

Enclosure: Permit Area Map



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
PO Box 25065
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065



September 16, 2020

Washington Department of Ecology
Solid Waste Management
Southwest Regional Office
PO Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775

RE: Opportunity to Review and Comment
Centralia Mine 2020 Permit Renewal Application
OSMRE Project No. WA0001E.3076

To Whom it May Concern:

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) has received an application for renewal of Federal permit No. WA-0001E for the Centralia Mine located in Centralia, Washington. The application was submitted by TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC (TCM) by letter dated July 14, 2020. We have determined the application to be administratively complete and are completing our review of the renewal application now.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul Clark
Centralia Mine Permit Coordinator

Enclosure: Permit Area Map



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
PO Box 25065
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065



September 16, 2020

Washington Department of Ecology
Water and Shorelines Department
Southwest Regional Office
PO Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775

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Centralia Mine 2020 Permit Renewal Application
OSMRE Project No. WA0001E.3076

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Program Support Division
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul Clark
Centralia Mine Permit Coordinator

Enclosure: Permit Area Map

[EXTERNAL] Affidavits of Publication - Permit Renewal

Dennis Morr <Dennis_Morr@transalta.com>

Mon 10/12/2020 3:23 PM

To: Clark, Paul <PClark@osmre.gov>

Cc: Michael Lydon <Michael_Lydon@transalta.com>

 2 attachments (584 KB)

The Chronicle_Affidavit of Publication.pdf; Tenino Independent_Affidavit of Publication.pdf;

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi Paul,

I have received the affidavits of publication from The Chronicle and the Tenino Independent. PDF copies are provided for your file.

Regards,
Dennis

Dennis Morr | Mine Environmental Specialist
TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC

T: +1 (360) 330-8209 | C: +1 (360) 623-9318

[Email](#) | [Web](#) | [Facebook](#)

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This email is confidential and may be privileged. If you are not the intended recipient please notify the sender immediately, and please delete it; you should not copy it or use it for any purpose or disclose its contents to any other person.

**AFFIDAVIT
OF PUBLICATION
STATE OF WASHINGTON
COUNTY OF LEWIS**

Alysa Andrews, and/or Mandy Klemola, and/or Kailyn Sawyer, and/or Cindy Thayer says that she is the legal clerk of

The
Chronicle

a semi-weekly newspaper, which has been established, published in the English language, and circulated continuously as a semi-weekly newspaper in the City of Centralia, and in Lewis County, Washington, general circulation in Lewis County for more than six (6) months prior to the date of the first publication of the notice hereto attached, and that the said Chronicle was on the 7th day of July 1941, approved as a legal newspaper by the Superior Court of said Lewis County. And that the attached is a true copy and was published in regular issues (and not in supplement form) of said newspaper as LEGAL # 115722 RE:Public Notice

once each Week for a period of 4 Weeks

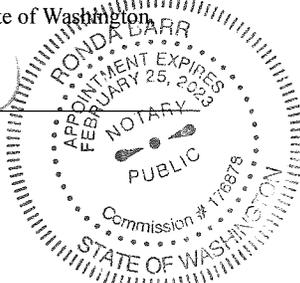
commencing on 09/08/2020 and ending on 09/29/2020

and both regularly distributed to its subscribers during all of said period. That the full amount of the fee charged for the foregoing publication is the sum of \$ 1126.60

[Signature]
Subscribed and sworn to before me 09/29/2020
[Signature]

Notary Public in and for the State of Washington, residing at

[Signature]



115722 Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC (TCM) is the Permittee/Operator of the Centralia Coal Mine located at 1015 Big Hanaford Road, Centralia, Washington. TCM's principle place of business is the Centralia Coal Mine at the address above. TCM's corporate mailing address is TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC c/o TECWA Fuel, Inc., 110-12th Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2P 2M1. TCM has filed a permit renewal application with the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), Denver, Colorado. The permit renewal application pertains to TCM's coal mining operation under OSMRE Permit No. WA-0001E effective November 21, 2015 to TCM under regulations promulgated by the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, at 30 CFR 947.774.15.

Pursuant to 30 CFR Section 947.778.21 of the rules and regulations of the Federal Program for Washington State, notice is hereby given of the filing of a permit renewal application for the Centralia Coal Mine, located approximately six (6) miles northeast of Centralia, Washington.

The attached map shows towns, highways, or other landmarks associated with the location of the permit area. The location and boundaries of the permit are also shown on this map.

Approval of the permit renewal would allow continuance of operations from November 21, 2020 to November 21, 2025 for TCM's Centralia Coal Mine. A copy of the permit renewal application is available for public inspection at the following locations:

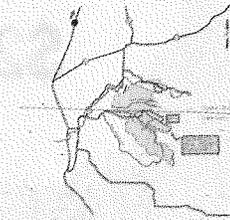
- TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC
1015 Big Hanaford Road
Centralia, WA 98531
Call for Apmt. (360) 330-8209
- United States Department of Interior
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
Western Region
One Federal Center,
Building 41
Denver, CO 80225-0065

Written comments, objections, or requests for an informal conference regarding this application must be filed within thirty (30) days after the last date of publication of this newspaper notice. All written comments, objections, or requests for an informal conference should be addressed to:

- Mr. Paul Clark,
Program Support Division
United States Department of Interior
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
Western Region
PO Box 25065
Denver, CO 80225-0065

This public notice will be published at least once per week for four (4) consecutive weeks by the following:

- The Daily Chronicle
321 North Pearl
Centralia, WA 98531
- The Tenino Independent
297 W. Sussex Avenue
Tenino, WA 98589



Published: The Chronicle
September 8, 15, 22 & 29,
2020

Affidavit of Publication

The undersigned, being first duly sworn on oath desposes, and says that he/she is an authorized representative of the TENINO INDEPENDENT, a weekly newspaper. That said newspaper is a legal newspaper and has been approved as a legal newspaper by order of the superior court in the county in which it is published in the English language continually as a weekly newspaper in Tenino, Thurston County, Washington and it's now and during all said time was printed in an office maintained at the aforesaid place of publication of said newspaper. That the annexed is a true copy of a

Public Notice, Renewal
Application
was published on Sept. 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2020

The amount of the fee charged for the foregoing publication is the sum of \$ 951.92

Melissa Grace
Newspaper Representative

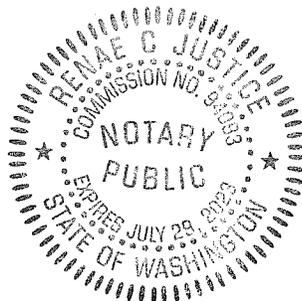
Subscribed and sworn to before me this

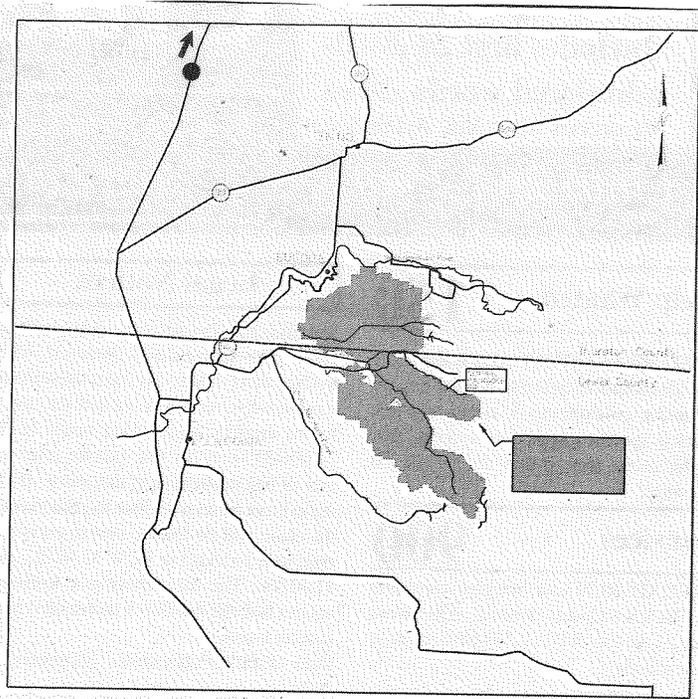
1st day of Oct., 20 20

Rena C. Justice
Notary Public in and for the State of Washington

SEAL

The Tenino Independent
P.O. Box 4004
297 W. Sussex Ave.
Tenino, Washington 98589





PUBLIC NOTICE

TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC (TCM) is the Permittee/Operator of the Centralia Coal Mine located at 1015 Big Hanaford Road, Centralia, Washington. TCM's principle place of business is the Centralia Coal Mine at the address above. TCM's corporate mailing address is TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC c/o TECWA Fuel, Inc., 110-12th Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2P 2M1. TCM has filed a permit renewal application with the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), Denver, Colorado. The permit renewal application pertains to TCM's coal mining operation under OSMRE Permit No. WA-0001E effective November 21, 2015 to TCM under regulations promulgated by the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, at 30 CFR 947.774.15.

Pursuant to 30 CFR Section 947.778.21 of the rules and regulations of the Federal Program for Washington State, notice is hereby given of the filing of a permit renewal application for the Centralia Coal Mine, located approximately six (6) miles north-east of Centralia, Washington.

The attached map shows towns, highways, or other landmarks associated with the location of the permit area. The location and boundaries of the permit are also shown on this map.

Approval of the permit renewal would allow continuance of operations from November 21, 2020 to November 21, 2025 for TCM's Centralia Coal Mine. A copy of the permit renewal application is available for public inspection at the following locations:

- TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC
1015 Big Hanaford Road
Centralia, WA 98531
Call for Apmt. (360) 330-8209
- United States Department of Interior
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
Western Region
One Federal Center, Building 41
Denver, CO 80225-0065

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United States Department of Interior
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
Western Region
PO Box 25065
Denver, CO 80225-0065

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|---|--|



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT
Interior Region 9
Denver, CO 80225



Agency and Public Comments 2020 Permit Renewal for TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC's Centralia Mine

TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC's (TCM) 2020 permit renewal application of Federal Permit WA-0001 was announced for public notice in the two local newspapers: The Chronicle and Tenino Independent. The period of publication was for four (4) consecutive weeks, as required, from September 8 to September 30, 2020. The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement received zero (0) comments or inquiries as a result of the published public notice.

TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC's (TCM) 2020 permit renewal application of Federal Permit WA-0001 was announced by certified letter to tribal, state, local, and other federal agencies on September 16, 2020 with a request for comment by October 30, 2020. The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement received zero (0) comments or inquiries as a result of notification by certified letter.

11-13-20

Date

Paul Clark
Centralia Mine Permit Coordinator
OSMRE Western Region



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Interior Region 9
Denver, CO 80225



November 20, 2020

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Dennis N. Morr, Jr.
Senior Environmental Specialist
TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC
Centralia Mine
913 Big Hanaford Road
Centralia, Washington 98531-9100

RE: Approval for Renewal of Federal Permit: WA-0001H
Permit Term November 21, 2020 to November 21, 2025
OSMRE Project WA-0001E.3076

Dear Mr. Morr:

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) has approved TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC's (TCM) July 14, 2020 application for renewal of Federal Permit WA-0001 for the Centralia Mine. We have renewed Federal Permit WA-0001H, effective on the date November 21, 2020; and this permit expires on November 21, 2025.

In accordance with regulation at 30 CFR 774.12, OSMRE's review confirms that the application for Centralia Mine permit renewal complies with the criteria applicable to permit renewals. Therefore, OSMRE approves the application for the Centralia Mine permit renewal and issues Federal Permit WA-0001H. The permit replaces the WA-0001E permit and authorizes the continuation of mining and reclamation operations until November 21, 2025 within the designated permit area. Please note that although the permit was renewed in 2010 and 2015 the permit was identified as WA-0001E from 2005 until this permit renewal. Therefore, the permit identified for the permit term 2020 to 2025 is WA-0001H.

Five (5) *limited* performance standard variances were granted by OSMRE with the November 22, 1985 issuance of Federal Permit WA-0001A in accordance with the Federal regulations under 30 CFR § 947.700(g), of the Federal Program in the State of Washington, and remain in effect. Additionally, two (2) *specific* performance standard variances were granted by OSMRE with the November 22, 1985 issuance of Federal Permit WA-0001A and remain in effect. Lastly, five (5) special permit conditions were imposed on the permittee for the previous permit renewal to take special actions unique to the operations and remain in effect upon issuance of Centralia Mine Permit WA-0001H.

INTERIOR REGION 9 • COLUMBIA – PACIFIC NORTHWEST
IDAHO, MONTANA*, OREGON*, WASHINGTON

*Partial

Enclosed is TCM's renewed Washington Federal Permit WA-0001H.

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Paul Clark, Centralia Mine Permit Coordinator, at pclark@osmre.gov.

Sincerely,



MYCHAL
YELLOWMAN

Mychal Yellowman, Manager
Indian and Washington Programs Branch

Enclosure

cc: Bureau of Land Management, Keith Anderson