

United States Department of the Interior



OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT
Western Region Office
Denver Federal Center, Building 41,
PO Box 25065,
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065



May 15, 2020

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

«Title» «First_Name» «Last_Name»
«Tribe»
«Mailing_Address»
«City_», «State» «Zip_Code»

RE: Availability of an Environmental Assessment for a Proposed Federal Significant Permit Revision for the Centralia Coal Mine

Dear Tribal Chairman,

The U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), Western Region Office, has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and unsigned Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC's (TCM's) Centralia Coal Mine significant permit revision for OSMRE Permit No. WA-0001E.

The OSMRE is responsible for reviewing plans to conduct coal mining and reclamation operations on lands containing leased Federal coal. OSMRE is announcing that the EA is available online and is requesting public comments on the document.

The purpose of this letter is to formally invite the «Tribe» Tribe to consult with the OSMRE on the EA for TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC's (TCM's) Centralia Coal Mine significant permit revision for OSMRE Permit No. WA-0001E, pursuant to the US Department of Interior's policy for Government-to-Government consultations [Executive Order 13175, Secretarial Order 3317, and Presidential Memorandum on Tribal Consultation (November 9, 2009)] and 36 CFR Part 800.2(c)(2)(ii), the regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended [NHPA]). The goal of the Government-to-Government process is to create effective collaboration and promote enhanced communication that emphasizes trust, respect, and shared responsibility. OSMRE requests input your tribe may have regarding the Centralia Mine Significant Permit Revision EA and the unsigned FONSI.

About the Project

TCM is proposing the following significant revision of the existing surface coal mining permit and Permit Application Package (PAP): The proposed significant permit revision would change the land-use designation of approximately 130 acres from forestry to permanent impoundment (a lake). The Centralia Mine is located within Sections 31-35, Township 15 North, Range 1 West, W.M., Lewis County, Washington.

If no action is taken, TCM would continue to conduct reclamation activities per their current permit.

If you believe that the proposed action listed above may affect your tribe or resources related to your tribe, including concerns under the NHPA, please submit a written request to gpinkham@osmre.gov or Gretchen Pinkham at Denver Federal Center, Building 41, PO Box 25065, Lakewood, CO 80225-0065.



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The «Tribe» Tribe may request a Government-to-Government consultation at any time during the NEPA process. In addition to Government-to-Government and Section 106 consultation, the «Tribe» Tribe may also participate in the formal NEPA process by providing comments on the EA and unsigned FONSI. Comments may be submitted in writing or by e-mail. At the top of your letter or in the subject line of your e-mail message, please indicate that the comments are “Centralia Mine EA Comments.”

Interested persons may view the EA and the unsigned FONSI on the OSMRE website at:

<https://www.wrcc.osmre.gov/initiatives/centraliaMine.shtm>

To ensure consideration of your comments, we must receive your electronic or written comments **June 15, 2020**. However, given the unique circumstances of the coronavirus pandemic, please let us know if additional time is needed to comment. Comments may be submitted in writing or by e-mail. At the top of your letter or in the subject line of your e-mail message, please indicate that the comments are “Centralia Mine EA Comments.”

- E-mail comments should be sent to: gpinkham@osmre.gov
- Comments delivered by U.S. Postal Service Express Mail or by courier service must be delivered by **June 15, 2020** and should be sent to:

OSMRE-Western Region
ATTN: Gretchen Pinkham, Centralia Mine
Denver Federal Center, Building 41,
PO Box 25065,
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065

Comments received, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project and will be available for public inspection. By including your address, phone number, email address, or other personally identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personally identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

For further information about the Project, NEPA Process, or to have your name added to the mailing list, contact: Gretchen Pinkham, OSMRE Project Manager, at gpinkham@osmre.gov.

Mychal Yellowman
Manager, Indian & Washington Programs Branch
OSMRE – Western Region