



United States Department of the Interior



OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region

1999 Broadway St., Suite 3320

Denver, CO 80202-3050

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

[INSERT NAME AND ADDRESS]

September 18, 2017

RE: Notice of Public Review and Comment Period for the Environmental Assessment for the John Henry No. 1 Mine WA-0007D Revision Application and Permit Renewal

Dear **[INSERT TITLE AND NAME]**,

The U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), Western Region Office, is releasing the Environmental Assessment (EA) and unsigned Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the John Henry Mine No.1 Permit Number WA-0007D. Tribes will have until October 17, 2017 to submit comments. The EA and unsigned FONSI are available for review as of September 18, 2017. All comments must be received or postmarked by October 17, 2017, to be considered. For your convenience, the EA and the unsigned FONSI can be accessed on the OSMRE Western Region website at:

<http://www.wrcc.osmre.gov/initiatives/johnHenryMine.shtm>.

Pacific Coast Coal Company (PCCC) submitted a permit revision application to revise Federal permit WA-0007D on April 18, 2011 to the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE). This permit revision would allow the continuation of surface coal mining operations under authority of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA), Public Law 95-87.

PCCC has not engaged in substantive coal mining operations since 1999. Environmental maintenance activities and monitoring have been ongoing since that date. PCCC's permit renewal applications (2011 and 2016) have been under administrative delay pending the completion of an Environmental Assessment (EA) of PCCC's proposed permit revision.

OSMRE has prepared an environmental assessment (EA), to analyze environmental impacts of approving a Revision Application and Permit Renewal for future surface mining operations at the John Henry No. 1 Mine Permit WA-0007D. As required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the EA discloses the potential for direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts. Resources analyzed in the EA include topography and geology, air quality and climate, social and economic resources, water resources, soils, biological resources, land use, recreation, and public health and safety.

The Proposed Action Alternative would be continuation of mining at the John Henry No. 1 Mine and renewal of the John Henry No. 1 Mine surface coal mining permit. Active mining operations would produce an estimated 84,000 short tons of saleable coal per year. Reclamation activities would follow until the mine site was fully reclaimed and final bond release was authorized by OSMRE.

As required by NEPA, the EA discloses the potential for direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to the environment from the Project. In accordance with the 2011 DOI Policy on Consultation with Indian Tribes and 36 CFR Part 800.2(c)(2)(ii), the regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of



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1966 (as amended [NHPA]), OSMRE requests input your tribe may have regarding the proposal development and implementation of the final federal action. The EA updates, clarifies, and provides new and additional environmental information for the Project. As a result of the EA process, OSMRE has determined there are no significant environmental impacts and has issued an unsigned Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

If you believe that the proposed decisions listed above may affect your tribe or resources related to your tribe, including concerns under the NHPA, please inform the OSMRE contact listed below. OSMRE will then contact you to arrange tribal government-to-government consultation on the Proposed Action.

Printed versions of the EA and unsigned FONSI are also available for review at the following locations along with copies of the significant permit revision:

Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation

Western Region Office

1999 Broadway, Suite 3320

Denver, CO 80202

Between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM Monday through Friday (Closed Saturday and Sunday)

Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation

Olympia Field Office

711 Capitol Way, Suite 703,

Olympia, Washington 98501,

Between the hours of 7:00 AM and 2:00 PM Monday through Friday (Closed Saturday and Sunday)

City of Black Diamond Office

24301 Roberts Drive

Black Diamond, WA 98010

Between the hours of 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM Monday through Friday (Closed Saturday and Sunday)

If you wish to submit comments on the proposed actions, please submit your comments and information related to this proposal in writing to the OSMRE by August 25, 2017. Please direct your comments on the EA and unsigned OSMRE FONSI to: ATTN: OSMRE, John Henry EA, OSMRE WR, C/O: Gretchen Pinkham, 1999 Broadway, Suite 3320, Denver, CO 80202-3050. Comments may also be emailed to: osm-nepa-wa@osmre.gov, please ensure the subject line reads: ATTN: OSMRE, John Henry EA.



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Additional information regarding the Environmental Assessment for the John Henry No. 1 Mine may be obtained through the OSMRE information line at 1-866-847-7362 and from the Project Team Lead, Dave Costain at 303-293-5003 and dcostain@osmre.gov.

Sincerely,

Mychal Yellowman
Manager, Indian Programs Branch
OSMRE – Western Region