



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050



CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Chairman Lyman Gui
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1330
Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005

Dear Chairman Gui,

The Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), are seeking additional public input regarding related proposals submitted by GCC Energy, LLC (GCC) for the continued mining of federal coal at the King II Coal Mine in La Plata County, Colorado. The BLM initiated an environmental assessment (EA) (DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2011-0074-EA) in 2011 and conducted public scoping in response to a lease modification proposal submitted by GCC. OSMRE is joining with the BLM to prepare a single EA analyzing related proposed federal actions in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, Departmental Manual Part 516, and additional DOI, BLM, and OSMRE policies and guidance. Additional scoping has been deemed necessary in order to adequately address the modified proposed action. Separate decision documents will be issued by each agency. Copies of this letter, maps, and previous scoping materials are available on BLM's ePlanning website at get-short-url-for-eplanning@blm.gov. The following is a legal description of the location of the proposed lease modification:

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Tract A - containing 220.00 acres more or less
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Tract B - containing 360.55 acres more or less
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Tract D - containing 10.00 acres more or less
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Tract E - containing 360.00 acres more or less
T. 35 N., R. 12 W., N.M.P.M., Sec. 35, NENW, S2NW, SW, and S2SE
Containing 950.55 acres, more or less.

DECISIONS TO BE MADE

As Joint Lead agencies, the BLM and OSMRE must analyze potential impacts to the human environment resulting from, and make separate decisions regarding, the following proposed federal actions:

1. The BLM must decide whether to: 1) approve, 2) approve with modifications, or 3) deny a modification of existing Federal Coal Lease COC62920 for the King II Coal Mine. If approved, the lease modification would result in the expansion of Federal Coal Lease COC62920 by approximately 950 acres on four tracts adjacent to the current operation. Most of the lease area consists of split estate, in which the federal government manages the subsurface mineral estate, but not the surface lands.

2. OSMRE must decide whether or not to approve a Permit Revision Application Package consisting of a water monitoring program, Probable Hydrologic Consequences analysis, Right of Entry information, Subsidence Control Plan, and a Reclamation Performance Bond and Reclamation Plan.

3. OSMRE must decide whether or not to approve an application to renew Federal Mine Permit CO-106A. The permit would reauthorize operations associated with the mining of federal coal from the areas within Federal Coal Lease COC62920 where the surface of the land is under the private ownership of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, but outside of the exterior boundaries of the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Reservation.

4. The DOI Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management must decide whether to: 1) approve; 2) approve with conditions; or 3) deny a mining plan modification to incorporate the lease expansion into Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act Permit C-1981-035.

BACKGROUND

GCC began conducting operations at the King II Coal Mine in 2007. King II is an underground room-and-pillar coal mine currently consisting of approximately 26 acres of surface facilities on state-leased lands and approximately 565 acres of underground disturbance so far. The low sulfur, ash, and alkali content coal is mined from the Menefee Formation and used primarily to fuel cement plants and a narrow gauge railroad. The coal is transported by truck via La Plata County Road 120 (under La Plata County Class II Land Use Permit #2012-0089) and Colorado State Highway 140 to either a railhead in Gallup, New Mexico or directly to market.

In 2014, the King II Mine was authorized to produce up to 1.3 million tons of coal annually through federal, State of Colorado, and private mineral leases, with the majority of production under Federal Coal Lease COC62920. At the present mining rate, it is estimated that the coal in the current lease area would be exhausted in less than three years. The additional tracts would extend the life of the current mine by an estimated five to seven years. On July 16, 2016, GCC was granted an emergency exclusion from a pause in the issuance of new leases and lease modifications under Secretarial Order 3338, Discretionary Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement to Modernize the Federal Coal Program (Section 6a). The exclusion enables GCC to pursue the lease modification while the Federal Government conducts a review of the federal coal program.

CONSULTATION AND COMMENTS

In accordance with the 2011 Department of Interior Policy on Consultation with Indian Tribes and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), OSMRE requests input your tribe may have regarding actions at the King II Mine. The Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation maintains a directory of tribes with historic ties to Colorado. Your Tribal Nation is listed in that directory, indicating you wish to be contacted for projects within Colorado.

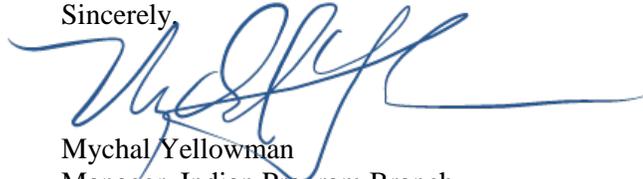
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If you wish to submit comments on the proposed actions, please submit your comments and information related to this proposal in writing to the BLM by February 05, 2017. All submissions received will be forwarded to OSMRE. OSMRE may hold informational meetings, at which time additional comments would be accepted.

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If you have questions about the BLM coal program or analysis, please contact James Blair at (970) 882-7296. For questions regarding the OSMRE regulatory process, please contact Paul Clark at (303) 293-5065.

Sincerely,



Mychal Yellowman
Manager, Indian Program Branch
OSMRE – Western Region



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Governor Eddie Hamilton
Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 38
Concho, Oklahoma 73022

Dear Governor Hamilton,

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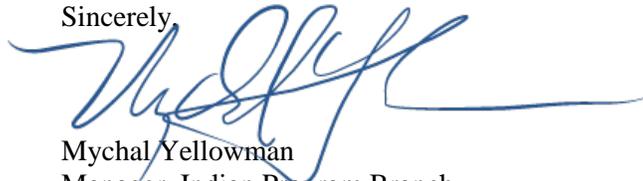
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Mychal Yellowman
Manager, Indian Program Branch
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Chairman Harold Frazier
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
P.O. Box 590
Eagle Butte, South Dakota 57625

Dear Chairman Frazier,

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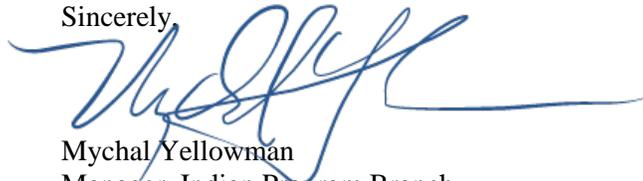
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Chairman Wallace Coffey
Comanche Nation
P.O. Box 908
Lawton, Oklahoma 73502

Dear Chairman Coffey,

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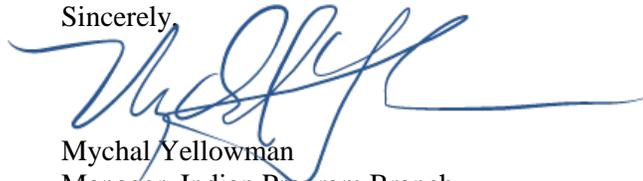
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Chairwoman Roxanne Sazue
Crow Creek Sioux Tribe
P.O. Box 50
Fort Thompson, South Dakota 57339

Dear Chairwoman Sazue,

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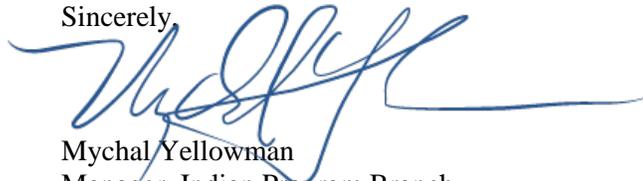
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Sincerely,



Mychal Yellowman
Manager, Indian Program Branch
OSMRE – Western Region



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050



CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Chairman Alvin Not Afraid
Crow Nation
P.O. Box 129
Crow Agency, Montana 59022

Dear Chairman Not Afraid,

The Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), are seeking additional public input regarding related proposals submitted by GCC Energy, LLC (GCC) for the continued mining of federal coal at the King II Coal Mine in La Plata County, Colorado. The BLM initiated an environmental assessment (EA) (DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2011-0074-EA) in 2011 and conducted public scoping in response to a lease modification proposal submitted by GCC. OSMRE is joining with the BLM to prepare a single EA analyzing related proposed federal actions in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, Departmental Manual Part 516, and additional DOI, BLM, and OSMRE policies and guidance. Additional scoping has been deemed necessary in order to adequately address the modified proposed action. Separate decision documents will be issued by each agency. Copies of this letter, maps, and previous scoping materials are available on BLM's ePlanning website at get-short-url-for-eplanning@blm.gov. The following is a legal description of the location of the proposed lease modification:

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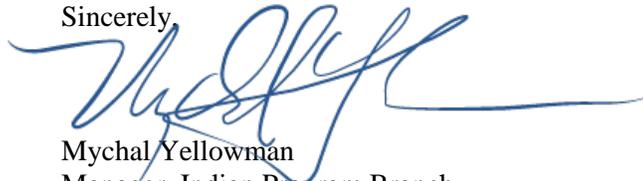
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Mychal Yellowman
Manager, Indian Program Branch
OSMRE – Western Region



United States Department of the Interior

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Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050



CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Chairman Darwin St. Clair Jr.
Eastern Shoshone Tribe
P.O. Box 538
Fort Washakie, Wyoming 82514

Dear Chairman St. Clair Jr.,

The Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), are seeking additional public input regarding related proposals submitted by GCC Energy, LLC (GCC) for the continued mining of federal coal at the King II Coal Mine in La Plata County, Colorado. The BLM initiated an environmental assessment (EA) (DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2011-0074-EA) in 2011 and conducted public scoping in response to a lease modification proposal submitted by GCC. OSMRE is joining with the BLM to prepare a single EA analyzing related proposed federal actions in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, Departmental Manual Part 516, and additional DOI, BLM, and OSMRE policies and guidance. Additional scoping has been deemed necessary in order to adequately address the modified proposed action. Separate decision documents will be issued by each agency. Copies of this letter, maps, and previous scoping materials are available on BLM's ePlanning website at get-short-url-for-eplanning@blm.gov. The following is a legal description of the location of the proposed lease modification:

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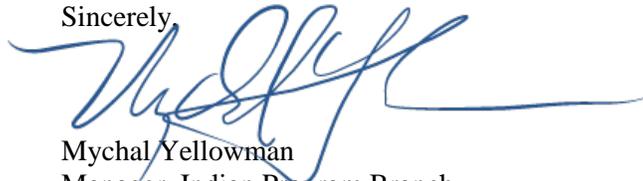
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CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Chairman Jeff Haozous
Fort Sill Apache Tribe
43187 US Hwy 281
Apache, Oklahoma 73006

Dear Chairman Haozous,

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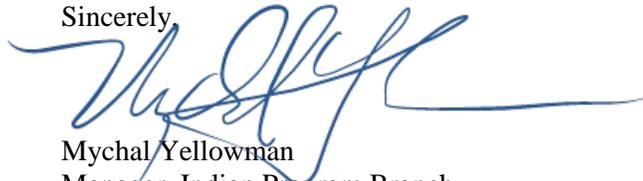
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1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
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CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Chairman Herman Honanie
The Hopi Tribe
P.O. Box 123
Kykotsmovi, Arizona 86039

Dear Chairman Honanie,

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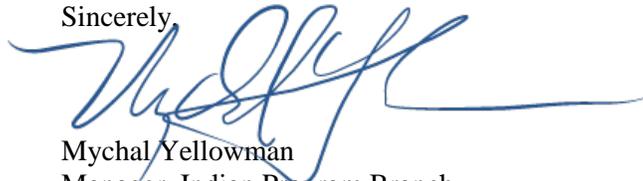
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Sincerely



Mychal Yellowman
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CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

President Ty Vicenti
Apache Tribe
P.O. Box 507
Dulce, New Mexico 87528

Dear President Vicenti,

The Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), are seeking additional public input regarding related proposals submitted by GCC Energy, LLC (GCC) for the continued mining of federal coal at the King II Coal Mine in La Plata County, Colorado. The BLM initiated an environmental assessment (EA) (DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2011-0074-EA) in 2011 and conducted public scoping in response to a lease modification proposal submitted by GCC. OSMRE is joining with the BLM to prepare a single EA analyzing related proposed federal actions in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, Departmental Manual Part 516, and additional DOI, BLM, and OSMRE policies and guidance. Additional scoping has been deemed necessary in order to adequately address the modified proposed action. Separate decision documents will be issued by each agency. Copies of this letter, maps, and previous scoping materials are available on BLM's ePlanning website at get-short-url-for-eplanning@blm.gov. The following is a legal description of the location of the proposed lease modification:

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DECISIONS TO BE MADE

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4. The DOI Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management must decide whether to: 1) approve; 2) approve with conditions; or 3) deny a mining plan modification to incorporate the lease expansion into Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act Permit C-1981-035.

BACKGROUND

GCC began conducting operations at the King II Coal Mine in 2007. King II is an underground room-and-pillar coal mine currently consisting of approximately 26 acres of surface facilities on state-leased lands and approximately 565 acres of underground disturbance so far. The low sulfur, ash, and alkali content coal is mined from the Menefee Formation and used primarily to fuel cement plants and a narrow gauge railroad. The coal is transported by truck via La Plata County Road 120 (under La Plata County Class II Land Use Permit #2012-0089) and Colorado State Highway 140 to either a railhead in Gallup, New Mexico or directly to market.

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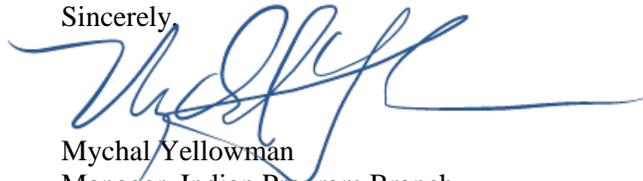
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If you have questions about the BLM coal program or analysis, please contact James Blair at (970) 882-7296. For questions regarding the OSMRE regulatory process, please contact Paul Clark at (303) 293-5065.

Sincerely,



Mychal Yellowman
Manager, Indian Program Branch
OSMRE – Western Region



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050



CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Governor Daniel Coriz
Kewa Pueblo
P.O. Box 99
Santo Domingo Pueblo, New Mexico 87052

Dear Governor Coriz,

The Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), are seeking additional public input regarding related proposals submitted by GCC Energy, LLC (GCC) for the continued mining of federal coal at the King II Coal Mine in La Plata County, Colorado. The BLM initiated an environmental assessment (EA) (DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2011-0074-EA) in 2011 and conducted public scoping in response to a lease modification proposal submitted by GCC. OSMRE is joining with the BLM to prepare a single EA analyzing related proposed federal actions in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, Departmental Manual Part 516, and additional DOI, BLM, and OSMRE policies and guidance. Additional scoping has been deemed necessary in order to adequately address the modified proposed action. Separate decision documents will be issued by each agency. Copies of this letter, maps, and previous scoping materials are available on BLM's ePlanning website at get-short-url-for-eplanning@blm.gov. The following is a legal description of the location of the proposed lease modification:

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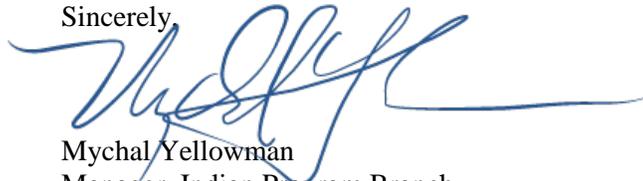
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Sincerely,



Mychal Yellowman
Manager, Indian Program Branch
OSMRE – Western Region



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050



CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Chairman Amber Toppah
Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 369
Carnegie, Oklahoma 73015

Dear Chairman Toppah,

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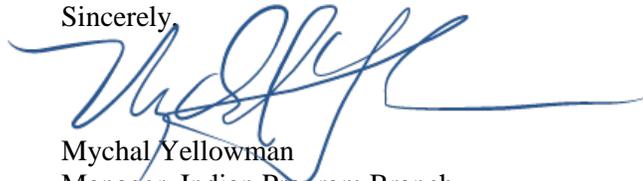
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Mychal Yellowman
Manager, Indian Program Branch
OSMRE – Western Region



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050



CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

President Danny Breuninger
Mescalero
P.O. Box 227
Mescalero, New Mexico 88340

Dear President Breuninger,

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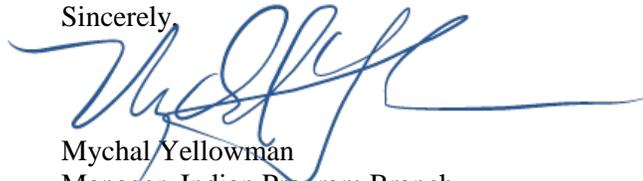
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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

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CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

President Russell Begay
Navajo Nation
P.O. Box 7440
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear President Begay,

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Dolores, CO 81323

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Sincerely,



Mychal Yellowman
Manager, Indian Program Branch
OSMRE – Western Region



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050



CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Chairman Dean Goggles
Northern Arapho Tribe
P.O. Box 396
Fort Washakie, Wyoming 82514

Dear Chairman Goggles,

The Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), are seeking additional public input regarding related proposals submitted by GCC Energy, LLC (GCC) for the continued mining of federal coal at the King II Coal Mine in La Plata County, Colorado. The BLM initiated an environmental assessment (EA) (DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2011-0074-EA) in 2011 and conducted public scoping in response to a lease modification proposal submitted by GCC. OSMRE is joining with the BLM to prepare a single EA analyzing related proposed federal actions in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, Departmental Manual Part 516, and additional DOI, BLM, and OSMRE policies and guidance. Additional scoping has been deemed necessary in order to adequately address the modified proposed action. Separate decision documents will be issued by each agency. Copies of this letter, maps, and previous scoping materials are available on BLM's ePlanning website at get-short-url-for-eplanning@blm.gov. The following is a legal description of the location of the proposed lease modification:

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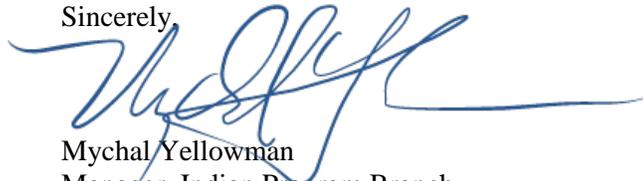
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Mychal Yellowman
Manager, Indian Program Branch
OSMRE – Western Region



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050



CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

President Llevando Fisher
Northern Cheyenne Tribe
P.O. Box 128
Lame Deer, Montana 59043

Dear President Fisher,

The Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), are seeking additional public input regarding related proposals submitted by GCC Energy, LLC (GCC) for the continued mining of federal coal at the King II Coal Mine in La Plata County, Colorado. The BLM initiated an environmental assessment (EA) (DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2011-0074-EA) in 2011 and conducted public scoping in response to a lease modification proposal submitted by GCC. OSMRE is joining with the BLM to prepare a single EA analyzing related proposed federal actions in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, Departmental Manual Part 516, and additional DOI, BLM, and OSMRE policies and guidance. Additional scoping has been deemed necessary in order to adequately address the modified proposed action. Separate decision documents will be issued by each agency. Copies of this letter, maps, and previous scoping materials are available on BLM's ePlanning website at get-short-url-for-eplanning@blm.gov. The following is a legal description of the location of the proposed lease modification:

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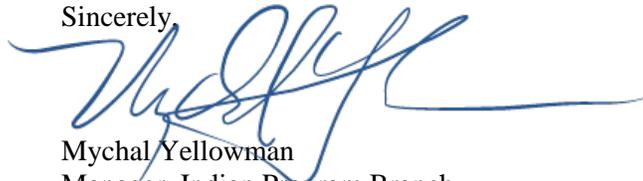
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1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050



CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

President John Steele
Oglala Sioux Tribe
P.O. Box 2070
Pine Ridge, South Dakota 57770

Dear President Steele,

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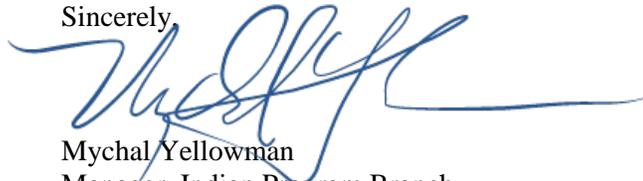
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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050



CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Governor Earl Salazar
Ohkay Owingeh (Pueblo of San Juan)
P.O. Box 1099
San Juan, New Mexico 87566

Dear Governor Salazar,

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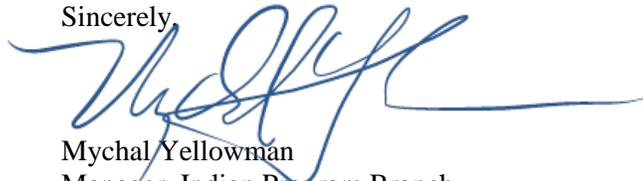
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1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
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CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Principal Chief Geoffrey Standingbear
Osage Nation
P.O. Box 779 or 627 Grandview
Pawhuska, Oklahoma 74056

Dear Principal Chief Standingbear,

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DECISIONS TO BE MADE

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BACKGROUND

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CONSULTATION AND COMMENTS

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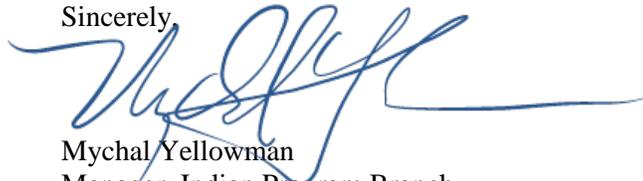
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Sincerely,



Mychal Yellowman
Manager, Indian Program Branch
OSMRE – Western Region



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050



CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Chairwoman Corrina Bow
Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
440 North Paiute Dr.
Cedar City, Utah 84721

Dear Chairwoman Bow,

The Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), are seeking additional public input regarding related proposals submitted by GCC Energy, LLC (GCC) for the continued mining of federal coal at the King II Coal Mine in La Plata County, Colorado. The BLM initiated an environmental assessment (EA) (DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2011-0074-EA) in 2011 and conducted public scoping in response to a lease modification proposal submitted by GCC. OSMRE is joining with the BLM to prepare a single EA analyzing related proposed federal actions in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, Departmental Manual Part 516, and additional DOI, BLM, and OSMRE policies and guidance. Additional scoping has been deemed necessary in order to adequately address the modified proposed action. Separate decision documents will be issued by each agency. Copies of this letter, maps, and previous scoping materials are available on BLM's ePlanning website at get-short-url-for-eplanning@blm.gov. The following is a legal description of the location of the proposed lease modification:

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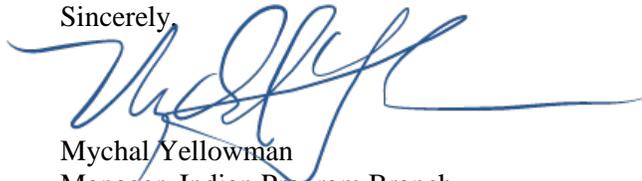
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Mychal Yellowman
Manager, Indian Program Branch
OSMRE – Western Region



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050



CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

President Bruce Pratt
Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma
881 Little Dee Drive
Pawnee, Oklahoma 74058

Dear President Pratt,

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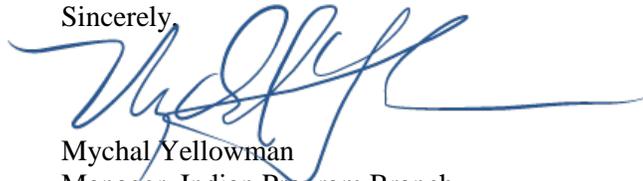
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Mychal Yellowman
Manager, Indian Program Branch
OSMRE – Western Region



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050



CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Governor Kurt Riley
Pueblo of Acoma
P.O. Box 309
Acoma, New Mexico 87034

Dear Governor Riley,

The Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), are seeking additional public input regarding related proposals submitted by GCC Energy, LLC (GCC) for the continued mining of federal coal at the King II Coal Mine in La Plata County, Colorado. The BLM initiated an environmental assessment (EA) (DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2011-0074-EA) in 2011 and conducted public scoping in response to a lease modification proposal submitted by GCC. OSMRE is joining with the BLM to prepare a single EA analyzing related proposed federal actions in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, Departmental Manual Part 516, and additional DOI, BLM, and OSMRE policies and guidance. Additional scoping has been deemed necessary in order to adequately address the modified proposed action. Separate decision documents will be issued by each agency. Copies of this letter, maps, and previous scoping materials are available on BLM's ePlanning website at get-short-url-for-eplanning@blm.gov. The following is a legal description of the location of the proposed lease modification:

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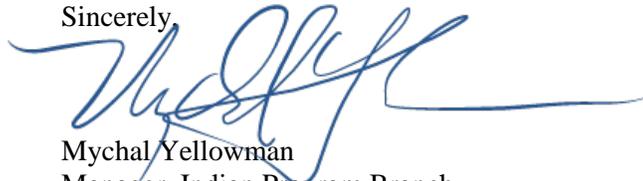
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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

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CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Governor Nicholas Garcia
Pueblo de Cochiti
P.O. Box 70
Cochiti, New Mexico 87072

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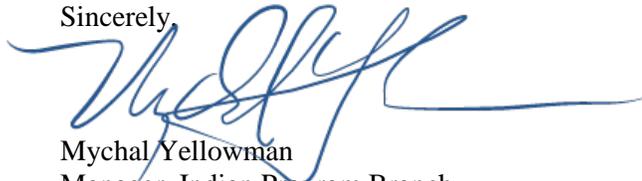
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Dolores, CO 81323

If you have questions about the BLM coal program or analysis, please contact James Blair at (970) 882-7296. For questions regarding the OSMRE regulatory process, please contact Paul Clark at (303) 293-5065.

Sincerely,



Mychal Yellowman
Manager, Indian Program Branch
OSMRE – Western Region



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050



CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Governor Paul Torres
Pueblo of Isleta
P.O. Box 1270
Isleta, New Mexico 87022

Dear Governor Torres,

The Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), are seeking additional public input regarding related proposals submitted by GCC Energy, LLC (GCC) for the continued mining of federal coal at the King II Coal Mine in La Plata County, Colorado. The BLM initiated an environmental assessment (EA) (DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2011-0074-EA) in 2011 and conducted public scoping in response to a lease modification proposal submitted by GCC. OSMRE is joining with the BLM to prepare a single EA analyzing related proposed federal actions in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, Departmental Manual Part 516, and additional DOI, BLM, and OSMRE policies and guidance. Additional scoping has been deemed necessary in order to adequately address the modified proposed action. Separate decision documents will be issued by each agency. Copies of this letter, maps, and previous scoping materials are available on BLM's ePlanning website at get-short-url-for-eplanning@blm.gov. The following is a legal description of the location of the proposed lease modification:

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Containing 950.55 acres, more or less.

DECISIONS TO BE MADE

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1. The BLM must decide whether to: 1) approve, 2) approve with modifications, or 3) deny a modification of existing Federal Coal Lease COC62920 for the King II Coal Mine. If approved, the lease modification would result in the expansion of Federal Coal Lease COC62920 by approximately 950 acres on four tracts adjacent to the current operation. Most of the lease area consists of split estate, in which the federal government manages the subsurface mineral estate, but not the surface lands.

2. OSMRE must decide whether or not to approve a Permit Revision Application Package consisting of a water monitoring program, Probable Hydrologic Consequences analysis, Right of Entry information, Subsidence Control Plan, and a Reclamation Performance Bond and Reclamation Plan.

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4. The DOI Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management must decide whether to: 1) approve; 2) approve with conditions; or 3) deny a mining plan modification to incorporate the lease expansion into Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act Permit C-1981-035.

BACKGROUND

GCC began conducting operations at the King II Coal Mine in 2007. King II is an underground room-and-pillar coal mine currently consisting of approximately 26 acres of surface facilities on state-leased lands and approximately 565 acres of underground disturbance so far. The low sulfur, ash, and alkali content coal is mined from the Menefee Formation and used primarily to fuel cement plants and a narrow gauge railroad. The coal is transported by truck via La Plata County Road 120 (under La Plata County Class II Land Use Permit #2012-0089) and Colorado State Highway 140 to either a railhead in Gallup, New Mexico or directly to market.

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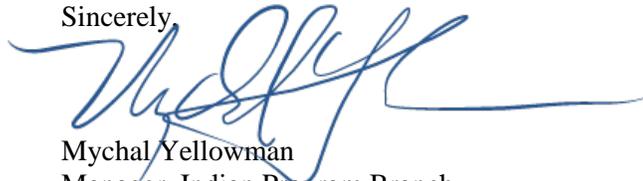
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Mychal Yellowman
Manager, Indian Program Branch
OSMRE – Western Region



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050



CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Governor David Yepa
Pueblo of Jemez
P.O. Box 100
Jemez Pueblo, New Mexico 87024

Dear Governor Yepa,

The Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), are seeking additional public input regarding related proposals submitted by GCC Energy, LLC (GCC) for the continued mining of federal coal at the King II Coal Mine in La Plata County, Colorado. The BLM initiated an environmental assessment (EA) (DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2011-0074-EA) in 2011 and conducted public scoping in response to a lease modification proposal submitted by GCC. OSMRE is joining with the BLM to prepare a single EA analyzing related proposed federal actions in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, Departmental Manual Part 516, and additional DOI, BLM, and OSMRE policies and guidance. Additional scoping has been deemed necessary in order to adequately address the modified proposed action. Separate decision documents will be issued by each agency. Copies of this letter, maps, and previous scoping materials are available on BLM's ePlanning website at get-short-url-for-eplanning@blm.gov. The following is a legal description of the location of the proposed lease modification:

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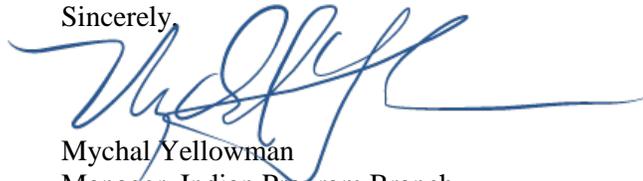
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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050



CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Governor Virgil Siow
Pueblo of Laguna
P.O. Box 194
Laguna, New Mexico 87026

Dear Governor Siow,

The Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), are seeking additional public input regarding related proposals submitted by GCC Energy, LLC (GCC) for the continued mining of federal coal at the King II Coal Mine in La Plata County, Colorado. The BLM initiated an environmental assessment (EA) (DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2011-0074-EA) in 2011 and conducted public scoping in response to a lease modification proposal submitted by GCC. OSMRE is joining with the BLM to prepare a single EA analyzing related proposed federal actions in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, Departmental Manual Part 516, and additional DOI, BLM, and OSMRE policies and guidance. Additional scoping has been deemed necessary in order to adequately address the modified proposed action. Separate decision documents will be issued by each agency. Copies of this letter, maps, and previous scoping materials are available on BLM's ePlanning website at get-short-url-for-eplanning@blm.gov. The following is a legal description of the location of the proposed lease modification:

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Mychal Yellowman
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OSMRE – Western Region



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050



CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Governor Phillip Perez
Pueblo of Nambe
Route 1 Box 117-BB
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87506

Dear Governor Perez,

The Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), are seeking additional public input regarding related proposals submitted by GCC Energy, LLC (GCC) for the continued mining of federal coal at the King II Coal Mine in La Plata County, Colorado. The BLM initiated an environmental assessment (EA) (DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2011-0074-EA) in 2011 and conducted public scoping in response to a lease modification proposal submitted by GCC. OSMRE is joining with the BLM to prepare a single EA analyzing related proposed federal actions in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, Departmental Manual Part 516, and additional DOI, BLM, and OSMRE policies and guidance. Additional scoping has been deemed necessary in order to adequately address the modified proposed action. Separate decision documents will be issued by each agency. Copies of this letter, maps, and previous scoping materials are available on BLM's ePlanning website at get-short-url-for-eplanning@blm.gov. The following is a legal description of the location of the proposed lease modification:

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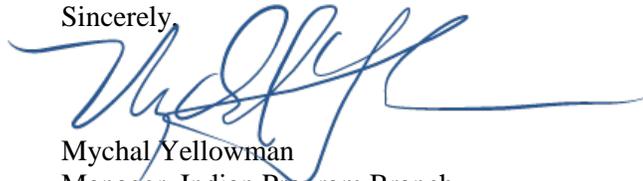
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1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050



CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Governor Gary Pyne
Pueblo of Picuris
P.O. Box 127
Penasco, New Mexico 87553

Dear Governor Pyne,

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BACKGROUND

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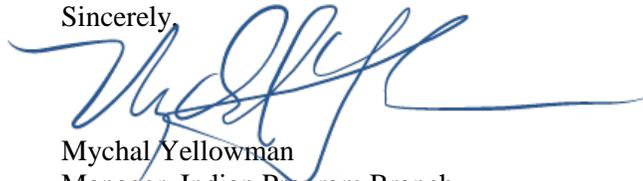
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Sincerely,



Mychal Yellowman
Manager, Indian Program Branch
OSMRE – Western Region



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050



CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Governor Josphe Talachy
Pueblo of Pojoaque
78 Cites of Gold Road
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87506

Dear Governor Talachy,

The Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), are seeking additional public input regarding related proposals submitted by GCC Energy, LLC (GCC) for the continued mining of federal coal at the King II Coal Mine in La Plata County, Colorado. The BLM initiated an environmental assessment (EA) (DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2011-0074-EA) in 2011 and conducted public scoping in response to a lease modification proposal submitted by GCC. OSMRE is joining with the BLM to prepare a single EA analyzing related proposed federal actions in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, Departmental Manual Part 516, and additional DOI, BLM, and OSMRE policies and guidance. Additional scoping has been deemed necessary in order to adequately address the modified proposed action. Separate decision documents will be issued by each agency. Copies of this letter, maps, and previous scoping materials are available on BLM's ePlanning website at get-short-url-for-eplanning@blm.gov. The following is a legal description of the location of the proposed lease modification:

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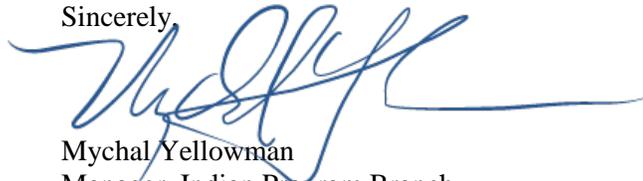
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Mychal Yellowman
Manager, Indian Program Branch
OSMRE – Western Region



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050



CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Governor Michael Sandoval
Pueblo of San Felipe
P.O. Box 4339
San Felipe Pueblo, New Mexico 87001

Dear Governor Sandoval,

The Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), are seeking additional public input regarding related proposals submitted by GCC Energy, LLC (GCC) for the continued mining of federal coal at the King II Coal Mine in La Plata County, Colorado. The BLM initiated an environmental assessment (EA) (DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2011-0074-EA) in 2011 and conducted public scoping in response to a lease modification proposal submitted by GCC. OSMRE is joining with the BLM to prepare a single EA analyzing related proposed federal actions in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, Departmental Manual Part 516, and additional DOI, BLM, and OSMRE policies and guidance. Additional scoping has been deemed necessary in order to adequately address the modified proposed action. Separate decision documents will be issued by each agency. Copies of this letter, maps, and previous scoping materials are available on BLM's ePlanning website at get-short-url-for-eplanning@blm.gov. The following is a legal description of the location of the proposed lease modification:

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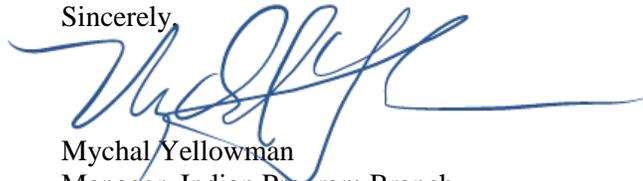
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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050



CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Governor Myron Armijo
Pueblo of Santa Ana
2 Dove Road
Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico 87004

Dear Governor Armijo,

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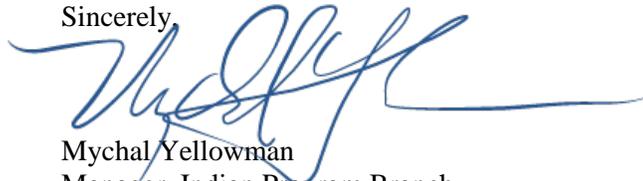
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Mychal Yellowman
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OSMRE – Western Region



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050



CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Governor Michael Chavarria
Pueblo of Santa Clara
P.O. Box 580
Española, New Mexico 87532

Dear Governor Chavarria,

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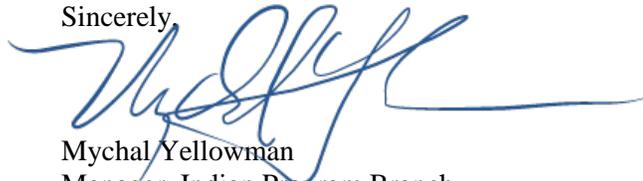
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OSMRE – Western Region



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050



CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Governor Benito Sandoval
Pueblo of Taos
P.O. Box 1846
Taos, New Mexico 87271

Dear Governor Sandoval,

The Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), are seeking additional public input regarding related proposals submitted by GCC Energy, LLC (GCC) for the continued mining of federal coal at the King II Coal Mine in La Plata County, Colorado. The BLM initiated an environmental assessment (EA) (DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2011-0074-EA) in 2011 and conducted public scoping in response to a lease modification proposal submitted by GCC. OSMRE is joining with the BLM to prepare a single EA analyzing related proposed federal actions in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, Departmental Manual Part 516, and additional DOI, BLM, and OSMRE policies and guidance. Additional scoping has been deemed necessary in order to adequately address the modified proposed action. Separate decision documents will be issued by each agency. Copies of this letter, maps, and previous scoping materials are available on BLM's ePlanning website at get-short-url-for-eplanning@blm.gov. The following is a legal description of the location of the proposed lease modification:

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Tract A - containing 220.00 acres more or less
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Tract B - containing 360.55 acres more or less
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Tract D - containing 10.00 acres more or less
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Tract E - containing 360.00 acres more or less
T. 35 N., R. 12 W., N.M.P.M., Sec. 35, NENW, S2NW, SW, and S2SE
Containing 950.55 acres, more or less.

DECISIONS TO BE MADE

As Joint Lead agencies, the BLM and OSMRE must analyze potential impacts to the human environment resulting from, and make separate decisions regarding, the following proposed federal actions:

1. The BLM must decide whether to: 1) approve, 2) approve with modifications, or 3) deny a modification of existing Federal Coal Lease COC62920 for the King II Coal Mine. If approved, the lease modification would result in the expansion of Federal Coal Lease COC62920 by approximately 950 acres on four tracts adjacent to the current operation. Most of the lease area consists of split estate, in which the federal government manages the subsurface mineral estate, but not the surface lands.

2. OSMRE must decide whether or not to approve a Permit Revision Application Package consisting of a water monitoring program, Probable Hydrologic Consequences analysis, Right of Entry information, Subsidence Control Plan, and a Reclamation Performance Bond and Reclamation Plan.

3. OSMRE must decide whether or not to approve an application to renew Federal Mine Permit CO-106A. The permit would reauthorize operations associated with the mining of federal coal from the areas within Federal Coal Lease COC62920 where the surface of the land is under the private ownership of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, but outside of the exterior boundaries of the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Reservation.

4. The DOI Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management must decide whether to: 1) approve; 2) approve with conditions; or 3) deny a mining plan modification to incorporate the lease expansion into Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act Permit C-1981-035.

BACKGROUND

GCC began conducting operations at the King II Coal Mine in 2007. King II is an underground room-and-pillar coal mine currently consisting of approximately 26 acres of surface facilities on state-leased lands and approximately 565 acres of underground disturbance so far. The low sulfur, ash, and alkali content coal is mined from the Menefee Formation and used primarily to fuel cement plants and a narrow gauge railroad. The coal is transported by truck via La Plata County Road 120 (under La Plata County Class II Land Use Permit #2012-0089) and Colorado State Highway 140 to either a railhead in Gallup, New Mexico or directly to market.

In 2014, the King II Mine was authorized to produce up to 1.3 million tons of coal annually through federal, State of Colorado, and private mineral leases, with the majority of production under Federal Coal Lease COC62920. At the present mining rate, it is estimated that the coal in the current lease area would be exhausted in less than three years. The additional tracts would extend the life of the current mine by an estimated five to seven years. On July 16, 2016, GCC was granted an emergency exclusion from a pause in the issuance of new leases and lease modifications under Secretarial Order 3338, Discretionary Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement to Modernize the Federal Coal Program (Section 6a). The exclusion enables GCC to pursue the lease modification while the Federal Government conducts a review of the federal coal program.

CONSULTATION AND COMMENTS

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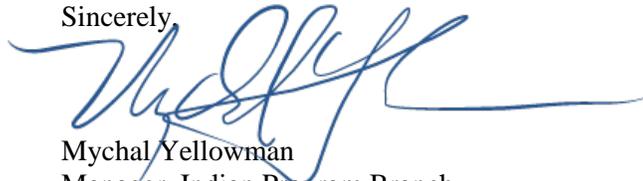
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Sincerely,



Mychal Yellowman
Manager, Indian Program Branch
OSMRE – Western Region



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CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Governor Frederick Vigil
Pueblo of Tesuque
Route 42 Box 360-T
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87506

Dear Governor Vigil,

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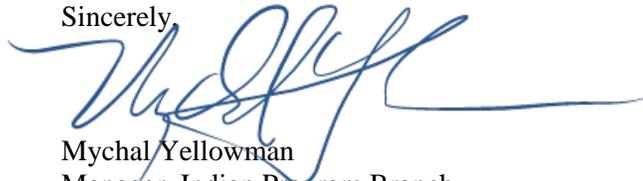
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Mychal Yellowman
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CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Governor Jerome Lucero
Pueblo of Zia
135 Capitol Square Drive
Zia Pueblo, New Mexico 87053-6013

Dear Governor Lucero,

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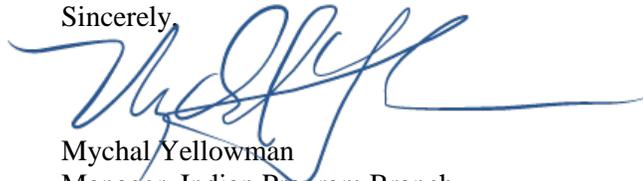
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1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
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CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

President William Kindle
Rosebud Sioux Tribe
P.O. Box 430
Rosebud, South Dakota 57570

Dear President Kindle,

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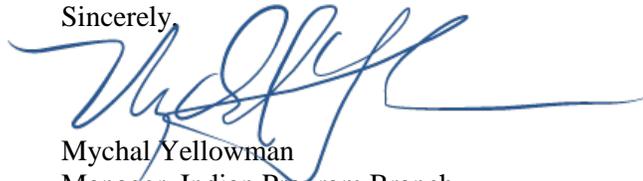
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CO-0106

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Chairman Blaine Edmo
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
P.O. Box 306
Fort Hall, Idaho 83203

Dear Chairman Edmo,

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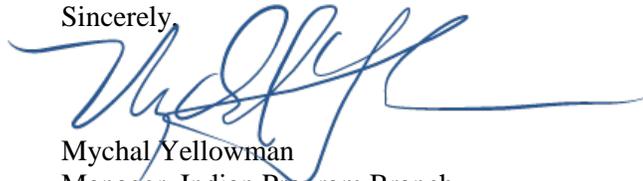
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Sincerely,



Mychal Yellowman
Manager, Indian Program Branch
OSMRE – Western Region



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050



CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Chairman Clement Frost
Southern Ute Indian Tribe
356 Ouray Drive, P.O. Box 737
Ignacio, Colorado 81137

Dear Chairman Frost,

The Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), are seeking additional public input regarding related proposals submitted by GCC Energy, LLC (GCC) for the continued mining of federal coal at the King II Coal Mine in La Plata County, Colorado. The BLM initiated an environmental assessment (EA) (DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2011-0074-EA) in 2011 and conducted public scoping in response to a lease modification proposal submitted by GCC. OSMRE is joining with the BLM to prepare a single EA analyzing related proposed federal actions in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, Departmental Manual Part 516, and additional DOI, BLM, and OSMRE policies and guidance. Additional scoping has been deemed necessary in order to adequately address the modified proposed action. Separate decision documents will be issued by each agency. Copies of this letter, maps, and previous scoping materials are available on BLM's ePlanning website at get-short-url-for-eplanning@blm.gov. The following is a legal description of the location of the proposed lease modification:

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Containing 950.55 acres, more or less.

DECISIONS TO BE MADE

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Mychal Yellowman
Manager, Indian Program Branch
OSMRE – Western Region



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050



CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Chairman Dave Archambault II
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
North Standing Rock Ave. Building 1 P.O. Box D
Fort Yates, North Dakota 58538

Dear Chairman Archambault II,

The Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), are seeking additional public input regarding related proposals submitted by GCC Energy, LLC (GCC) for the continued mining of federal coal at the King II Coal Mine in La Plata County, Colorado. The BLM initiated an environmental assessment (EA) (DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2011-0074-EA) in 2011 and conducted public scoping in response to a lease modification proposal submitted by GCC. OSMRE is joining with the BLM to prepare a single EA analyzing related proposed federal actions in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, Departmental Manual Part 516, and additional DOI, BLM, and OSMRE policies and guidance. Additional scoping has been deemed necessary in order to adequately address the modified proposed action. Separate decision documents will be issued by each agency. Copies of this letter, maps, and previous scoping materials are available on BLM's ePlanning website at get-short-url-for-eplanning@blm.gov. The following is a legal description of the location of the proposed lease modification:

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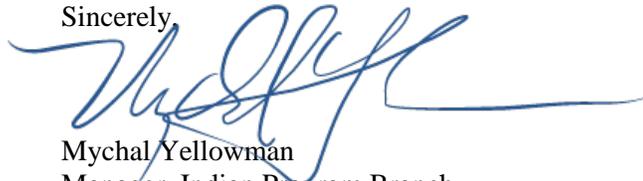
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OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050



CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Chairman Mark Fox
Three Affiliated Tribes
404 Frontage Road
New Town, North Dakota 58763

Dear Chairman Fox,

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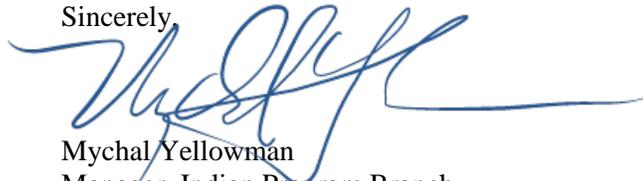
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Mychal Yellowman
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OSMRE – Western Region



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

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1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
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CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Chairman Shaun Chapoose
Ute Indian Tribe (Uintah & Ouray Reservation)
P.O. Box 190
Ft. Duchesne, Utah 84026

Dear Chairman Chapoose,

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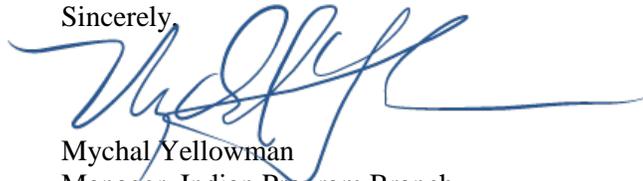
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1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
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CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Chairman Harold Cuthair
Ute Mountain Tribe
P.O. Box JJ
Towaoc, Colorado 81334-0248

Dear Chairman Cuthair,

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DECISIONS TO BE MADE

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BACKGROUND

GCC began conducting operations at the King II Coal Mine in 2007. King II is an underground room-and-pillar coal mine currently consisting of approximately 26 acres of surface facilities on state-leased lands and approximately 565 acres of underground disturbance so far. The low sulfur, ash, and alkali content coal is mined from the Menefee Formation and used primarily to fuel cement plants and a narrow gauge railroad. The coal is transported by truck via La Plata County Road 120 (under La Plata County Class II Land Use Permit #2012-0089) and Colorado State Highway 140 to either a railhead in Gallup, New Mexico or directly to market.

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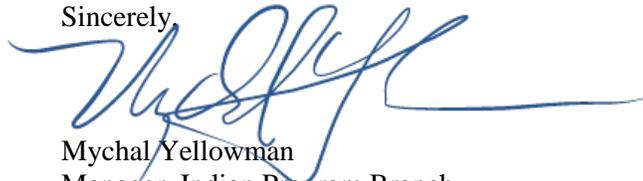
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If you have questions about the BLM coal program or analysis, please contact James Blair at (970) 882-7296. For questions regarding the OSMRE regulatory process, please contact Paul Clark at (303) 293-5065.

Sincerely,



Mychal Yellowman
Manager, Indian Program Branch
OSMRE – Western Region



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050



CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

President Terri Parton
Wichita & Affiliated Tribes
P.O. Box 729
Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005

Dear President Parton,

The Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), are seeking additional public input regarding related proposals submitted by GCC Energy, LLC (GCC) for the continued mining of federal coal at the King II Coal Mine in La Plata County, Colorado. The BLM initiated an environmental assessment (EA) (DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2011-0074-EA) in 2011 and conducted public scoping in response to a lease modification proposal submitted by GCC. OSMRE is joining with the BLM to prepare a single EA analyzing related proposed federal actions in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, Departmental Manual Part 516, and additional DOI, BLM, and OSMRE policies and guidance. Additional scoping has been deemed necessary in order to adequately address the modified proposed action. Separate decision documents will be issued by each agency. Copies of this letter, maps, and previous scoping materials are available on BLM's ePlanning website at get-short-url-for-eplanning@blm.gov. The following is a legal description of the location of the proposed lease modification:

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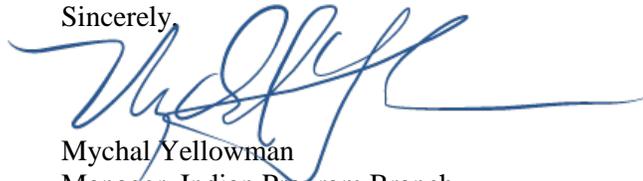
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Sincerely,



Mychal Yellowman
Manager, Indian Program Branch
OSMRE – Western Region



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050



CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Governor Carlos Hisa
Ysleta del Sur Pueblo
P.O. Box 17579
El Paso, Texas 79907

Dear Governor Hisa,

The Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), are seeking additional public input regarding related proposals submitted by GCC Energy, LLC (GCC) for the continued mining of federal coal at the King II Coal Mine in La Plata County, Colorado. The BLM initiated an environmental assessment (EA) (DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2011-0074-EA) in 2011 and conducted public scoping in response to a lease modification proposal submitted by GCC. OSMRE is joining with the BLM to prepare a single EA analyzing related proposed federal actions in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, Departmental Manual Part 516, and additional DOI, BLM, and OSMRE policies and guidance. Additional scoping has been deemed necessary in order to adequately address the modified proposed action. Separate decision documents will be issued by each agency. Copies of this letter, maps, and previous scoping materials are available on BLM's ePlanning website at get-short-url-for-eplanning@blm.gov. The following is a legal description of the location of the proposed lease modification:

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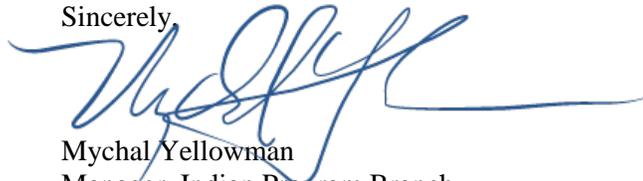
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Mychal Yellowman
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OSMRE – Western Region



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050



CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Governor Val Panteah
Zuni Tribe of the Zuni Reservation
P.O. Box 339
Zuni, New Mexico 87327

Dear Governor Panteah,

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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
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CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Governor James Mountain
Pueblo of San Ildefonso
02 Tunyo Po
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87506

Dear Governor Mountain,

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CONSULTATION AND COMMENTS

In accordance with the 2011 Department of Interior Policy on Consultation with Indian Tribes and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), OSMRE requests input your tribe may have regarding actions at the King II Mine. The Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation maintains a directory of tribes with historic ties to Colorado. Your Tribal Nation is listed in that directory, indicating you wish to be contacted for projects within Colorado.

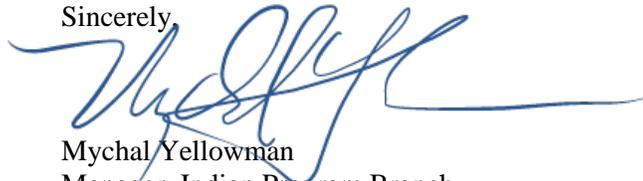
If you believe that the proposed decisions listed above may affect your tribe or resources related to your tribe, including concerns under the NHPA, please inform the BLM or OSMRE contact listed below. BLM and OSMRE will then contact you to arrange tribal government-to-government consultation on the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

If you wish to submit comments on the proposed actions, please submit your comments and information related to this proposal in writing to the BLM by February 05, 2017. All submissions received will be forwarded to OSMRE. OSMRE may hold informational meetings, at which time additional comments would be accepted.

Email: coalcommenttresrios@blm.gov
Postal Service: BLM Tres Rios Field Office
Attn: King II Coal Mine EA
20211 Highway 184
Dolores, CO 81323

If you have questions about the BLM coal program or analysis, please contact James Blair at (970) 882-7296. For questions regarding the OSMRE regulatory process, please contact Paul Clark at (303) 293-5065.

Sincerely



Mychal Yellowman
Manager, Indian Program Branch
OSMRE – Western Region



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050



CO-0106

January 5, 2017

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Governor Isaac Lujan
Pueblo of Sandia
481 Sandia Loop
Bernalillo, New Mexico 87004

Dear Governor Lujan,

The Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), are seeking additional public input regarding related proposals submitted by GCC Energy, LLC (GCC) for the continued mining of federal coal at the King II Coal Mine in La Plata County, Colorado. The BLM initiated an environmental assessment (EA) (DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2011-0074-EA) in 2011 and conducted public scoping in response to a lease modification proposal submitted by GCC. OSMRE is joining with the BLM to prepare a single EA analyzing related proposed federal actions in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, Departmental Manual Part 516, and additional DOI, BLM, and OSMRE policies and guidance. Additional scoping has been deemed necessary in order to adequately address the modified proposed action. Separate decision documents will be issued by each agency. Copies of this letter, maps, and previous scoping materials are available on BLM's ePlanning website at get-short-url-for-eplanning@blm.gov. The following is a legal description of the location of the proposed lease modification:

New Mexico Principle Meridian, La Plata County, Colorado
Tract A - containing 220.00 acres more or less
T. 35 N., R. 11 W., N.M.P.M., Sec. 19, NE, S2SE, and Sec. 20, NWNW
Tract B - containing 360.55 acres more or less
T. 35 N., R. 11 W., N.M.P.M., Sec. 30, lots 1-4, E2NW, and NWNE;
T. 35 N., R. 12 W., N.M.P.M., Sec. 25, lots 3-8
Tract D - containing 10.00 acres more or less
T. 35 N., R. 12 W., N.M.P.M., Sec. 26, SENENE
Tract E - containing 360.00 acres more or less
T. 35 N., R. 12 W., N.M.P.M., Sec. 35, NENW, S2NW, SW, and S2SE
Containing 950.55 acres, more or less.

DECISIONS TO BE MADE

As Joint Lead agencies, the BLM and OSMRE must analyze potential impacts to the human environment resulting from, and make separate decisions regarding, the following proposed federal actions:

1. The BLM must decide whether to: 1) approve, 2) approve with modifications, or 3) deny a modification of existing Federal Coal Lease COC62920 for the King II Coal Mine. If approved, the lease modification would result in the expansion of Federal Coal Lease COC62920 by approximately 950 acres on four tracts adjacent to the current operation. Most of the lease area consists of split estate, in which the federal government manages the subsurface mineral estate, but not the surface lands.

2. OSMRE must decide whether or not to approve a Permit Revision Application Package consisting of a water monitoring program, Probable Hydrologic Consequences analysis, Right of Entry information, Subsidence Control Plan, and a Reclamation Performance Bond and Reclamation Plan.

3. OSMRE must decide whether or not to approve an application to renew Federal Mine Permit CO-106A. The permit would reauthorize operations associated with the mining of federal coal from the areas within Federal Coal Lease COC62920 where the surface of the land is under the private ownership of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, but outside of the exterior boundaries of the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Reservation.

4. The DOI Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management must decide whether to: 1) approve; 2) approve with conditions; or 3) deny a mining plan modification to incorporate the lease expansion into Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act Permit C-1981-035.

BACKGROUND

GCC began conducting operations at the King II Coal Mine in 2007. King II is an underground room-and-pillar coal mine currently consisting of approximately 26 acres of surface facilities on state-leased lands and approximately 565 acres of underground disturbance so far. The low sulfur, ash, and alkali content coal is mined from the Menefee Formation and used primarily to fuel cement plants and a narrow gauge railroad. The coal is transported by truck via La Plata County Road 120 (under La Plata County Class II Land Use Permit #2012-0089) and Colorado State Highway 140 to either a railhead in Gallup, New Mexico or directly to market.

In 2014, the King II Mine was authorized to produce up to 1.3 million tons of coal annually through federal, State of Colorado, and private mineral leases, with the majority of production under Federal Coal Lease COC62920. At the present mining rate, it is estimated that the coal in the current lease area would be exhausted in less than three years. The additional tracts would extend the life of the current mine by an estimated five to seven years. On July 16, 2016, GCC was granted an emergency exclusion from a pause in the issuance of new leases and lease modifications under Secretarial Order 3338, Discretionary Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement to Modernize the Federal Coal Program (Section 6a). The exclusion enables GCC to pursue the lease modification while the Federal Government conducts a review of the federal coal program.

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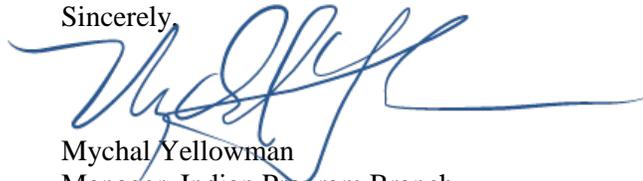
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