

**Availability of an Environmental Assessment for Public Review and Comment
West Elk Mine Federal Mining Plan Modification**

In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations and the Department of the Interior procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 42 U.S.C. 43332(2) (C), the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), Western Region has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the environmental effects of the proposed mining plan modification for the Permit Revision 15 (PR-15) for the West Elk Mine. OSMRE is responsible for reviewing plans to conduct coal mining and reclamation operations on lands containing leased federal coal. Pursuant to 30 CFR 746, OSMRE must prepare and submit to the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management (ASLM), a decision document recommending approval, conditional approval, or disapproval of the proposed mining plan modification. ASLM approval of a mining plan modification would authorize mining activities to produce an estimated 10.1 million tons of coal in 1,720 acres of Federal lease modifications COC-1362 and COC-67232, extend the West Elk Mine life by about 2 years, including 51 acres of surface disturbance for associated roadways and methane ventilation boreholes with mobile flare units.

Mountain Coal Company, Inc. operates the West Elk Mine, which is in Gunnison County, Colorado near Somerset. OSMRE invites the public to comment on the EA and unsigned Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI). The EA and unsigned FONSI will be available for review as of December 13, 2019. All comments must be post marked by December 23, 2019 for consideration. The EA and unsigned FONSI can be reviewed online at the following OSMRE website: <https://www.wrcc.osmre.gov/initiatives/westElkMine/westElkMine.shtm> . A hard copy of the EA and unsigned FONSI will also be available for review at the following location:

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
Western Region
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202

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

Submit your comments and information related to this EA in writing to OSMRE by December 23, 2019. Your name and address must be included for your submission to be considered.

Email: osm-nepa-co@osmre.gov

OSMRE Website: <https://www.wrcc.osmre.gov/initiatives/westElkMine/westElkMine.shtm>

Postal Service: Gretchen Pinkham, OSMRE
Attn: Gretchen Pinkham – West Elk Mine Modification EA
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050

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.

If you have questions about the OSMRE process, please contact Gretchen Pinkham, telephone number (303) 293-5088 and email gpinkham@osmre.gov.