

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Under Title IV of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.; SMCRA), the Denver Field Division of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) gives notice of the availability of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) addressing an environmental assessment (EA) for an abandoned mine land (AML) reclamation project in Rio Blanco County, Colorado.

This action covers the West Slope/Black Diamond Fire Design and Abatement AML reclamation project which will address two separate, hazardous underground mine fire surface expression features located in the vicinity of collapsed mine entries. The underground fire exists in an abandoned coal mine which operated from approximately 1900 to 1930. The project area is located approximately one mile northwest of Meeker. This well-documented health and safety hazard to wildlife and the public creates the potential for exposure to hot, possibly toxic combustion gases exhausting from localized fractures and fissures on the slopes of the project area. The approximately three acre site is located on privately owned land surrounded by public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The project will include excavation of approximately 10,000 cubic yards of overburden and smoldering material which will be quenched with a fire-retardant foam and water mixture, followed by mechanical backfill, recontouring, and revegetation. There is support for AML coal mine fire suppression and control in Rio Blanco County and the community affected. OSMRE is providing funding to the Colorado Inactive Mine Reclamation Program to complete this reclamation.

Complete copies of the Environmental Assessment and FONSI are available at the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Western Region, Denver Field Division, 1999 Broadway, Suite 3320, Denver, Colorado, 80202-3050. They also are available at the Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety, Inactive Mine Reclamation Program, 1313 Sherman Street, #215, Denver, Colorado, 80203.