United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
Reclamation and Enforcement
Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050

FEB 21 2017

Received
County Administration
2/23/17

Dear Sir or Madam:

Each year the United States Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), and the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS), jointly evaluate DRMS's programs for regulating coal mining and for reclaiming abandoned mine lands in Colorado. We determine how effectively the DRMS coal regulatory program is (1) ensuring that land reclamation on coal mines is contemporaneous and successful, (2) preventing offsite impacts to lands and waters adjacent to coal mine permit areas, and (3) providing service to its customers. We also determine how effectively the DRMS Inactive Mine Reclamation (IMR) program is using funds provided under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) to accomplish the objectives of Title IV, Section 405 of SMCRA. Our evaluation process includes the selection of specific coal mining and land reclamation topics which we use to evaluate these criteria.

At the end of each evaluation period, OSMRE writes reports addressing DRMS's effectiveness in implementing its coal regulatory and IMR programs. The Annual Evaluation Summary Reports are accessible through the OSMRE website at: http://odocs.osmre.gov/. Our next oversight evaluation period is from July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018.

We are requesting your comments on OSMRE's oversight process for both the coal regulatory and IMR programs, recommendations for evaluation topics, and suggestions for improving our future Annual Reports. We are also providing you the opportunity to discuss ideas and concerns pertinent to our programs with OSMRE's Denver Regional Office.

If you have any suggestions or questions on our annual evaluation process, or if you would like to initiate a discussion with OSMRE's Denver Regional Office, please contact us by March 30, 2017. You may e-mail us at cbelka@osmre.gov, phone (303) 293-5020, or mail us a letter at the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Denver Field Division, Attn: Christine Belka, 1999 Broadway, Suite 3320, Denver, Colorado 80202. If you prefer to receive this annual outreach letter by email in the future, please provide us with your email address.

Sincerely,

Christine Belka

Christine Belka
Senior Regulatory Program Specialist / OSMRE / Denver Field Branch

Regulatory Oversight Team:
Christine Belka (OSMRE), Dan Hernandez (DRMS), Dan MacKinnon (OSMRE), Tom Medlin (OSMRE), and Jim Stark (DRMS).

Inactive Mine Reclamation Oversight Team:
Dan MacKinnon (OSMRE), Tom Medlin (OSMRE), and Jeff Graves (DRMS).