AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item: Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcem

Action Requested: Board of County Commissioners' Signature

Parties to the Agreement:

Term Begins: **Term Ends:** **Grant Contract #:**

Summary:

Comments on U.S. Dept of the Interior; Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's Oversight Process

Fiscal Impact:

Submitted by: Laura Seymour **Submitter's Email Address:** lseymour@gunnisoncounty.org

Finance Review: ○ Required ◉ Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by: Discharge Date:

County Attorney Review: ◉ Required ○ Not Required

Comments:
ok db 3/16/17

Reveiwed by: Discharge Date: 3/16/2017 Certificate of Insurance Required

Yes ○ No ◉

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mbirnie Discharge Date: 3/17/2017

○ Consent Agenda ◉ Regular Agenda ○ Worksession Time Allotted: 5

Agenda Date: 3/21/2017

Revised April 2015

Gunnison County
COLORADO

Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners
Phone: (970) 641–0248 • Fax: (970) 641–3061
Email: bocc@gunnisoncounty.org • www.GunnisonCounty.org

March 21, 2017

Christine Belka
Senior Regulatory Program Specialist
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
Denver Field Division
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, Colorado 80202

Attention: Christine Belka
cbelka@osmre.gov

Re: OSMRE OVERSIGHT PROCESS

Dear Ms. Belka:

The Board of County Commissioners of Gunnison County, Colorado (the "Board") appreciates your correspondence dated February 21, 2017 requesting comments on OSMRE's oversight process for both the coal regulatory and IMR programs, recommendations for evaluation topics, and suggestions for improving future Annual Reports.

The Board, first, recognizes the efforts made to ensure that land reclamation on coal mines is "contemporaneous and successful." The Board requests that, in each instance, there be transparent, regular and documented monitoring, with established reclamation metrics—all financed by a security mechanism to ensure completion.

The Board also applauds the efforts made to ensure that the DRMS coal regulatory program prevents offsite impacts to lands and waters adjacent to the mine permit areas. To assist the Board in understanding the scope, reach and efficacy of the actions, may we ask for more information on protection (e.g. programs, regulations, standards, rulemakings) of domestic wells, agricultural crop and livestock waters, and waters used by wildlife and recreationists.

The Board respectfully but with emphasis, also requests all reasonable measures be employed to ensure immediate, short term and long term effective capture and beneficial use of methane.

Respectfully,

Phil Chamberland, Chairperson	Jonathan Houck, Vice Chair	John Messner, Commissioner