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2005 General
CO. Jerritsen
Sinn

STATE OF COLORADO

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Division Director
Natural Resource Trustee

TO: Jerrri Ann Ernstsen

CO/AGENCY: _____ **No. of Pages Sent:** _____

FROM: Mike Boulay **FAX NO.:** _____

MESSAGE TO RECIPIENT:

Jerrri Ann :
Here are the two documents we discussed.
They are old and may be of limited help.

MB

DATE: 11/16/05

PROGRAM: MINS. _____ COAL X AML _____ M. SAFETY _____

TIME TO BE SENT: ASAP X or NIGHT RATE _____

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**INFORMAL GUIDANCE
ON
PREPARATION OF WATER DEPLETION ESTIMATES
FOR
THE WINDY GAP PROCESS**

Applicants are advised to confer with the Grand Junction Office of USFWS to determine what factors should be considered in preparing the water depletion estimate.

OSM had developed the following informal guidance regarding the preparation of water depletion estimates:

Water depletion estimates for coal mining operations in the Upper Colorado River Basin should factor in the following water uses as well as others that are specific to each project:

Use of water from the following sources:

- Water rights
- Water pumped from streams/rivers.
- Alluvial aquifer pumpage
- Deep aquifer pumpage where such aquifers are connected to surface waters

Use of water for the following activities:

- Haul road dust suppression
- Dust suppression on other roads
- Other dust suppression activities
- Pond evaporation
- Pit water evaporation
- Underground mining dust suppression
- Conveyor sprays
- Bathhouse consumption
- Power plant boiler water use
- Domestic/potable water use
- Coal processing/cleaning consumption
- Ventilation fan moisture output

The water depletion should be based on the maximum approved annual coal production rate approved by the State RA. Some of the factors listed below are overlapping, therefore each operator should develop their water depletion estimate based on the site conditions at the mine giving full consideration to each factor as it is present at the mine. The water depletion estimate must not be reduced based on water augmentation from water rights or other sources.

OSM recommends that the water depletion estimate be included in the SMCRA permit application. It should be included along with hydrology information and be referenced in the wildlife section of the permit application where impacts to T and E species are discussed.

EP.WPD

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INFORMATION OSM NEEDS FROM STATE TO PREPARE MINING PLAN DOCUMENT.

INFORMATION	SOURCE	Comments
Date application received	DMG approval document	
Date application declared complete	DMG approval document	
Date of last update of application	DMG approval document OR OSM receipt date	
Date of last completeness publication	DMG approval document	
Name of newspaper	DMG approval document	
Bond amount	DMG approval document	
Permit area acreage before revision approved	DMG approval document	
Permit revision area acreage	DMG approval document	
Total permit area acreage after revision approved	DMG approval document	
Existing disturbed acreage	DMG approval document	
Additional disturbed acreage resulting from revision	DMG approval document	
Maximum approved annual coal production rate	DMG approval document OR PAP	
TE Species information for preparation of Biological Assessment	PAP	
Windy Gap water depletion estimate for Upper Colorado River Basin if annual coal production rate is an increase from that last approved by DMG.	PAP - usually in Hydrology section but should be referenced in wildlife TE section.	A Mining Plan action MAY BE required if an increase in annual coal production rate <u>BY ITSELF ALONE</u> is sufficient to increase the water depletion.
SHPO consultation letter	Project Manager	
State decision date	DMG Approval document	

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