March 13, 2013

Daron Haddock  
Division of Oil, Gas & Mining  
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Dear Sir,

In response to your request for comments on OSM’s oversight process we would like to recommend a few items. We feel it would be beneficial to surface water if more comprehensive testing and monitoring of springs above and around mining operations were conducted. The current language regulating testing is not specific enough to guarantee proper monitoring is being conducted. We also feel that base flow rates of the creeks and rivers fed by the watershed above mining operations should be monitored, thereby allowing quantity changes to the collaborative watershed to be reflected in the monitoring. We also would like the language to be more specific as to the responsibilities of the mining operation if it is found that water sources are disrupted.

The town of Emery receives its sole source of water from the watershed on the surface above the SUFCO mine operated by Arch Coal. We appreciate the contribution that SUFCO makes to the economy and recognize mining’s role in our town. We also need to do everything we can to insure that we will have a water supply now and well into the future.

Thanks,

Mistie Christiansen, Mayor

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