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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

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June 5, 2015

Russell J. Riley, District Manager
District 9 Coal Mine Safety and Health
Denver Federal Center- 6th and Kipling
2nd Street, Bldg. 25, E-18
Denver, Colorado 80225

Subject: Proposed Bulkhead and Portal Plug Plan, Deer Creek Mine

Dear Mr. Riley:

On behalf of the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (the Division), I want to thank you for allowing us to participate in the recent conference call to discuss the proposed closure plan at the Deer Creek Mine. We appreciate the opportunity to express our concerns and additionally, we appreciate the communication and outreach that you and your staff have extended to us.

Following the May 28th conference call, it was requested that the participants provide written comments to you regarding the proposed bulkhead and portal plug plan submitted by the Energy West Mining Company (the Company) for its Deer Creek Mine property. The Division feels that it would be inappropriate to provide specific suggestions relative to the proposed mine closure plan design. From a jurisdictional stand-point, as well as from an expertise vantage point, we do not feel that we are qualified to do so.

However, as we indicated during the conference call, of the various scenarios that could occur following the final closure of the Deer Creek Mine, a potential mine water discharge into Rilda Canyon would present the most challenges and potential issues from an environmental stand point.

The Utah Division of Water Quality has informed us that it would not be possible for the Company to acquire the necessary Clean Water Act permits in Rilda Canyon to allow for a mine water discharge to occur in that drainage. Additionally, it's likely that the mine water discharge would require some form of treatment to remove elevated iron concentrations. As was also indicated during the conference call, a culinary water source is located downstream from the Rilda Canyon portals that could potentially be impacted.

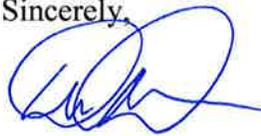


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In closing, the Division would favor a closure plan that has the highest probability of achieving long-term safety and minimizing the potential for a mine water discharge into Rilda Canyon.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please free to contact me if you have questions or wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,



Dana Dean, P.E.
Associate Director

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