

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Pursuant to Title 40, Section 1506.6 of the Code of Federal Regulations, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement – Denver Field Branch (OSMRE – DFB) gives notice of the availability of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) prepared in response to our receipt and analysis of the Lewis Mine Fire Mitigation Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA examines potential environmental impacts associated with an abandoned mine land reclamation project designed to mitigate an underground coal mine fire on private property in Boulder County, Colorado.

The Lewis Mine Fire Mitigation project is designed to extinguish the burning and smoldering coal and to halt the mine fire's progress by preventing oxygen flow to adjacent coal seams. Contractors supervised by the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety – Inactive Mine Reclamation Program (DRMS – IMRP) would accomplish this task by excavating an area of approximately 1.5-acres to the bottom of the mine workings, a depth of about 25 feet below grade. Any of the excavated material measuring 100 degrees-Fahrenheit or greater would be blended with cool, non-carbonaceous fill at a ratio of approximately one-to-five. The blended fill, once cooled below 100 degrees-Fahrenheit, would be returned to the excavation and compacted in place. The disturbed area would then be recontoured and revegetated. OSMRE is providing federal funding to DRMS – IMRP to complete this project.

Complete copies of the EA and FONSI are available at the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Denver Field Branch, One Denver Federal Center, Building 41, Lakewood, Colorado 80225 and the Colorado Inactive Mine Reclamation Program, 1313 Sherman Street #215, Denver, Colorado 80203.