



**NEW MEXICO
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January 12, 2018

Chad Gaines, Environmental Specialist
Peabody Natural Resources Company
P.O. Box 757
Grants, New Mexico 87020

Subject: Work Plan Approval: Use Attainability Analysis for the determination hydrologic regime for waterbodies within Lee Ranch Coal Mine

Dear Mr. Gaines:

The New Mexico Environment Department ("NMED") Surface Water Quality Bureau ("SWQB") received a final work plan for the above-mentioned Use Attainability Analysis ("UAA") on June 6, 2017. Prior, the SWQB reviewed several drafts of this plan as submitted on September 14, 2015 and November 16, 2016 and provided suggestions and comments. The SWQB conveyed a general acceptance of the work plan as submitted, and subsequent hydrology protocol surveys were scheduled and conducted in collaboration with the SWQB.

Approval of a UAA work plan is required by the NMED in accordance with 20.6.4.15 D NMAC, and although implied acceptance of the workplan was given, the formal administrative approval process was inadvertently overlooked. This letter constitutes approval of the work plan, as submitted to the SWQB on June 6, 2017, for the Lee Ranch Mine Use Attainability Analysis.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Bryan Dail, at bryan.dail@state.nm.us or (505) 476-3799.

Thank you for your patience in this matter.

Sincerely,

Shelly Lemon,
Bureau Chief
Surface Water Quality Bureau

cc: Kris Barrios, Program Manager, Monitoring Assessment and Standards Section, SWQB (via electronic transmission)
Jennifer Fullam, Standards, Planning and Reporting Team Leader, SWQB (via electronic transmission)
Bryan Dail, Ph.D., Environmental Scientist Specialist, SWQB (via electronic transmission)