

News Release



Office of Surface Mining Reclamation & Enforcement
A Bureau of the U. S. Department of the Interior

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mining Plan Modification Approved Following Environmental Assessment of King II Mine in Colorado

Washington, DC – The Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management has issued an approved mining plan modification to allow continued development of Federal coal at the King II Coal Mine, an underground mine, located about 4 miles southwest of Hesperus, Colorado. OSMRE conducted an environmental assessment (EA) of the project and found no significant impact associated with the expansion of the mine area.

The [modification to the mining plan](#) will add approximately 590 acres to the approved mining plan area for the underground mine, and will allow mining of approximately 2.7 million tons of Federal coal. The action will add approximately three to four years to the life of the mine.

The mine is projected to produce, on average, 1.07 million tons per year, with a maximum production rate of 1.3 million tons per year. The mine currently employs 88 people.

The King II Mine permit provides for a post-mine land use of rangeland and wildlife habitat which will continue with this modification.

OSMRE holds a reclamation performance bond in the amount of \$32,555 on the site. Reclamation performance bonds are held to ensure that post-mining reclamation of the site is carried out if a company cannot carry out its legally required reclamation obligations.

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The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) carries out the requirements of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 in cooperation with states and tribes. OSMRE's objectives are to ensure that coal mining activities are conducted in a manner that protects citizens and the environment during mining, to ensure that the land is restored to beneficial use after mining, and to mitigate the effects of past mining by aggressively pursuing reclamation of abandoned coal mines.

