

CORRECTED
PRELIMINARY FINDINGS OF FACT AND DECISION

Renewal of Coal Exploration Permit
Healy Valley Coal Exploration Permit Number 01-86-795

The Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW) has received request submitted by Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc. (UCM) PO Box 1000, Healy, AK 99743 to renew the Healy Valley Coal Exploration Permit (#01-86-795). DMLW makes the following Preliminary Findings of Fact and Decision in accordance with 11 AAC 90.165.

1. An application to renew Coal Exploration Permit No. 01-86-795 was filed with the DMLW on March 25, 2013. The Healy Valley Coal Exploration Permit was originally issued on October 9, 1997.
2. The exploration area is approximately 4 miles southeast of Healy, Alaska within Sections 21-28, Township 12S, Range 7W, and Sections 21-28 and Sections 10-21, Township 11S, Range 6W, all within the Fairbanks Meridian.
3. No revisions have been requested during this permit term. This renewal will authorize the drilling of two new exploration drillholes. The renewal application contains all the information required by 11 AAC 90.163 and is sufficient for this office to make a decision.
4. The exploration permit application was found complete on May 31, 2013. Public notice of this preliminary decision will be given for the period starting on June 13, 2013 and ending on July 15, 2013. Legal ads will be placed in the Fairbanks Daily News Miner on June 13, 2013. Also, on June 13, 2013, the notice will be mailed directly to DMLW's mailing list of affected persons and agencies and will be posted to the Department of Natural Resources website.
5. The activities proposed in the renewal meet the requirements of AS 27.21.200 and 11 AAC 90.163 through 11 AAC 90.167, subject to the stipulations of the permit, which ensure that the exploration and reclamation will comply with these requirements
6. The approved permit area is not within an area designated unsuitable for mining under AS 27.21.260.
7. The proposed coal exploration activities will not affect threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat.
8. Pursuant to 11 AAC 90.167(b) UCM has proposed a reclamation bond in the amount of \$1074.07 to cover the associated reclamation liability of 2 exploration wells.
9. Prior to any additional drilling, appropriate water use authorization must be acquired prior to withdrawing any water.

Copies of the Permit Application, Preliminary Findings of Fact and other supporting documents are available for review at the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water, 550 West 7th Avenue., Suite 920, Anchorage, AK 99501-3577 or on our website (<http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/hottopics/index.cfm>).

A person who may be adversely affected by the issuance of this permit may file written comments. Comments should be sent to Jennifer Keese, at the Anchorage address listed above, by fax to (907) 269-8930, or by e-mail to: coalprogram@alaska.gov with the subject "Healy Creek Exploration" in the subject line. The deadline for comments is 5:00 p.m. on July 15, 2013.