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January 26, 2016

OSMRE Colowyo Mine EA  
C/O Nicole Caveny  
Western Region Office  
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320  
Denver, CO 80202-3050

To Whom It May Concern:

The Craig City Council is writing to support Alternative B in the Environmental Assessment for the Collum area of the Colowyo Mine. The proposed mine plan is based on industry best practices to limit the impact on the environment and ensure safety of the employees and the community.

The analysis of burning the Colowyo coal at the Craig Station power plant is very extensive. While OSM does not routinely conduct this level of analysis for air emissions in an EA, in this case it was beneficial to show that Craig Station has numerous air quality emission controls and the emissions at the plant are very low. The analysis also shows that the air quality emissions at the actual mining operation are also very well controlled and almost insignificant. We agree with your finding that the air quality emissions from the mining operation and the power plant do not contribute to adverse impacts to the environment.

The Colowyo Mine has committed to significant wildlife mitigation measures that will offset any environmental impact that may have occurred due to ongoing mining activities in the Collum area. Specifically, the wildlife mitigation measures for sage grouse will provide an overall benefit to the species in the region.

The Colowyo Mine and its future are significantly integrated with the communities of northwest Colorado. If the mine goes away, so does the economic vitality of our community and many of us. As such, OSMRE's consideration of the economic impacts of the mine on our community should be weighed heavily. The benefits of the Colowyo Mine, its 200+ employees and their families, and the \$200 million in economic activity it brings to the region each year can be realized without adversely impacting the environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We believe that the OSMRE should sign the Finding of No Significant Impact and approve the permit to allow Colowyo to continue to operate.

Respectfully,  
Craig City Council

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Mayor Raymond Beck

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Mayor Pro Tem Kent Nielson

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Councilman Joe Bird

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Councilman Tony Bohrer

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Councilman Derek Duran

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Councilman Jarrod Ogden

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Councilman John Ponikvar