

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS OF FACT
Coal Exploration Permit
Healy Valley Coal Exploration Permit Number E-0603b

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 reissue the Healy Valley Coal Exploration Permit (E-0603b). DMLW makes the following Preliminary Findings of Fact and Decision in accordance with 11 AAC 90.165.

1. An application to request Coal Exploration Permit No. E-0603b was filed with the DMLW on February 5, 2020.
2. The exploration area is approximately 4 miles southeast of Healy, Alaska within, Township 12S, Range 7W, Fairbanks Meridian, Sections 21-28 and Township 12S, Range 6W, Fairbanks Meridian, Sections 10-11 and Sections 14-21.
3. This permit will authorize the drilling of twelve new exploration drillholes. The 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 February 7, 2020. Public notice of this preliminary decision will be given for the period starting on March 27, 2020 and ending on April 27, 2020. Legal ads will be placed in the Fairbanks Daily News Miner on March 27, 2020. Also, on March 22, 2020, 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 application 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 \$3251.17 to cover the associated reclamation liability of 12 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 W. 7th Ave., Suite 920, Anchorage, AK 99501-3577, Department's Fairbanks office at 3700 Airport Way, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709 and on the Divisions website at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/mining/>

A person who is or may be adversely affected by the renewal of this permit may file written comments or objections and may include with an objection a request for an informal conference (AS 27.21.140). Written comments should be addressed to Russell Kirkham, Division of Mining, Land and Water, 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 920, Anchorage, AK 99501-3577, or by e-mail to coalprogram@alaska.gov with the subject, "Healy Creek Exploration". **The deadline for written comments is 5:00 PM on April 27, 2020.**