

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS OF FACT

Request for Healy Valley Bulk Sample Coal Exploration Application E-0604-1

The Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW) has reviewed the application submitted by Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc. (UCM) PO Box 1000, Healy, AK 99743 requesting the issuance of a Healy Valley Bulk Sample Permit (E-0604-1). DMLW makes the following Preliminary Findings of Fact in accordance with 11 AAC 90.163 and 11 AAC 90.165.

1. An application to request Coal Exploration Permit No. E-0604-1 was filed with the DMLW on July 14, 2025.
2. The exploration area is approximately 7 miles east of Healy, Alaska within Township 12S, Range 6W, Fairbanks Meridian, Sections 17-20.
3. This permit will authorize a bulk sample of 25,000 tons in Healy Valley. 25,000 tons will supply enough blend coal for approximately one month of testing. The location where the coal will be tested includes UAF's Combined Heat and Power Plant, Eielson Air Force Base Combined Heat and Power Plant, Fort Wainwright Central Heat and Power Plant and Aurora Energy's Chena Power Plant.
4. The application contains all the information required by 11 AAC 90.163 and 11 AAC 90.165 and is sufficient for this office to make a decision.
5. The exploration permit application was found complete on July 22, 2025. Public Notice of this preliminary decision will be given for the period starting on July 25, 2025 and ending on August 25, 2025. On July 25, 2025 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 public notice website ([https://aws.state.ak.us/ OnlinePublicNotices/](https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/)).
6. 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.
7. The approved permit area is not within an area designated unsuitable for mining under AS 27.21.260.
8. The proposed coal exploration activities will not affect threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat.
9. Pursuant to 11 AAC 90.167(b) UCM has proposed a reclamation bond in the amount of \$68,660.54 to cover the associated reclamation liability of associated activities.
10. Prior to any additional activities, 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, or on our website (<http://notice.alaska.gov/218923>).

A person who may be adversely affected by the issuance of this permit may file written comments. Comments should be sent to the Anchorage address listed above, by fax to (907) 269-8930, or by email to: coalprogram@alaska.gov with the subject "Healy Valley Bulk Sample" in the subject line.

The deadline for comments is 5:00 p.m. on August 25, 2025.

Russell Kirkham
Coal Program Manager

Date