

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1408

November 7, 2016

Colonel Christopher G. Beck
District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Louisville District
600 Dr. Martin Luther King Place
Louisville, Kentucky 40202

Re: United Minerals Company, LLC
Seven Hills Mine, LRL-2013-635-gjd

Dear Colonel Beck,

The United Minerals Company, LLC (Peabody), Seven Hills proposed permit area is within the borders of the Eighth Congressional District, which I represent.

I understand that the Army Corps has decided to require Peabody to generate and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prior to a permit being issued at the Seven Hills Mine.

I am concerned that it appears premature that the Army Corps would require an EIS before the completion of an Environmental Assessment (EA). Similar projects, such as Wild Boar, have been successfully permitted with an EA and a Finding of No Significant Impact, even after discussion that an EIS might be needed. In this case, it is concerning that Peabody was not given any indication by the Army Corps that an EIS might be required.

Additionally, it is troubling that EA process completion is currently being delayed. I understand that Peabody is ready to provide responses to technical comments made by the EPA and Fish and Wildlife Service, but is still waiting on the Army Corps to provide their technical comments for response. Also, they have communicated to me that they have not received clear and meaningful guidance from the Army Corps as to their proposed mitigation plans on the site. I respectfully urge the Army Corps to provide technical responses as well as prompt and clear mitigation guidance consistent with Corps regulations for this project.

I believe that an EIS may be unnecessary, and will further delay this project which is expected to bring significant jobs and economic impact to my district, an area that has seen many jobs lost in the coal industry. I respectfully request that you reconsider your decision to require an EIS until the EA process has been completed, at which time you will have complete information regarding the environmental impact and the subsequent mitigation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Bucshon". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress