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Subject:	Buffalo Mtn.-King Coal Alternatives Development Mtg.
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Attachments:	Buff Mt- King Hwy Alt Dev Mtg_2-7-13.docx

EPA recently received an evaluation of what may be practicable and less damaging alternatives to the currently proposed mine and highway designs for the Buffalo Mountain Surface Mine - King Coal Highway. EPA made a preliminary presentation of this information to the COE and FHWA in December 2012. After reviewing the presentation, all parties felt that it would be beneficial to have a follow-up technical meeting to better understand the alternatives analysis.

In addition, in January 2012, I had the pleasure of meeting Col. McGugan in Pittsburgh where we briefly discussed EPA's conceptual alternatives and the need for our technical staffs to meet further on this issue

I am writing today to propose that a meeting between the COE, FHWA, EPA, Consul and WVDOH be held in the next several weeks. As I discussed with Col. McGugan, this should be a working meeting, with the appropriate technical staff (we do not need to personally meet at this stage) and an agenda that assures adequate presentation and consideration of design details and alternatives.

The outcome of the meeting can be shared with broader stakeholders, but we believe that the review of the alternative at this time should be centered on the agencies and applicant who are involved with the development of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. We all want to help assure that the environmental study and assessment of alternatives are well-considered. To help facilitate a productive and efficient meeting, attached, please find a proposed draft agenda that outlines issues to be addressed at the meeting.

I would appreciate if you could identify a contact with whom my staff can coordinate to plan the meeting. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or wish to discuss this issue further.

Thank you – Shawn

Shawn M. Garvin
Regional Administrator
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