

Woodhouse Colliery Planning Application

Press Statement

March 2019



Today, 19th March 2019, Cumbria County Council (CCC) has formally granted planning approval to West Cumbria Mining (WCM) to develop its Metallurgical Coal Project, which will be known as Woodhouse Colliery - a new underground mine, located on a brownfield site, to the south west of Whitehaven in West Cumbria.

Since 2014, the company has been working on its plans to develop a 21st Century mine which has included careful thought and consideration about the design of the surface infrastructure to minimise any potential impact from noise, dust and light. A considerable number of environmental and ecological surveys have been completed, alongside a programme of coal exploration, both onshore and offshore which has proven the presence of high-quality coal for use in the steel industry.

Once construction of the mine is completed and Woodhouse Colliery moves into the operational phase, the company plans to extract and process around 2.5 million tonnes of metallurgical coal per year to supply into UK and European steel-making coal plants, which currently import around 45 million tonnes per annum from USA, Canada, Russia and Australia.

As is normal with projects of this nature, as part of planning approval being granted, CCC has set-out extensive planning conditions which WCM needs to meet to enable the company to move forward to the next phases of the development of the project. Over the coming months, WCM will continue to work with CCC to finalise and discharge those conditions, which will enable the project to progress to the pre-construction and construction phases. It is anticipated that site work will start before the end of 2019, with coal production commencing around 24-months from the start of construction.

Commenting, **Mark Kirkbride**, CEO of West Cumbria Mining said "Today marks a very important milestone in our journey to develop a world class mine in Cumbria and is the culmination of five years of hard work and determination by the WCM team to realise our vision".

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“Woodhouse Colliery will bring significant local benefits to Whitehaven, Copeland and Cumbria in terms of jobs and investment. I am proud to be part of something which will have such a positive impact on the local community and economy as well as the long-term financial benefits the mine will bring to the UK”.

“We now look forward to moving towards the construction of Woodhouse Colliery and harnessing the extensive mining history and knowledge in West Cumbria to operate a state-of-the-art mine, including the highest levels of health and safety and technology to ultimately realise our vision of becoming a leading European producer of high-quality metallurgical coal for steel making”.

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For further information please contact Helen Davies, Head of Communications
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NOTES TO EDITORS:

West Cumbria Mining (WCM) is a private UK company focused on the development of its Cumbrian Metallurgical Coal Project to supply the steel industry in the UK and Europe.

West Cumbria Mining holds a series of licences which together cover an area of approximately 200km² off the coast near Whitehaven. The project sits within the West Cumbrian Coalfield, in an area where mining has spanned many centuries, and is located adjacent to the former Haig Colliery, from which 48 Mt of metallurgical coal was extracted between 1914 and 1986, with mining activities beneath the seabed over four miles offshore.

Since 2014, WCM has been developing its plans for the project. This has included:

- three programmes of coal exploration, both onshore and offshore, which has proven the presence of high quality, high volatile metallurgical coal with some very attractive properties;
- the company completing detailed feasibility work including compliant resource and reserve statements;
- undertaking an extensive programme of engagement with key stakeholders and the local community; and,
- developing its plans and designs for the project, which have been influenced by feedback during its engagement.

In May 2017 WCM submitted its planning application for ‘Woodhouse Colliery’ to Cumbria County Council.