

STATE OF COLORADO

DIVISION OF RECLAMATION, MINING AND SAFETY

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman St., Room 215
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone: (303) 866-3567
FAX: (303) 832-8106



March 6, 2014

Delta County Independent
401 Meeker
P.O. Box 809
Delta, CO 81416
Dwebster@deltacountyindependent.com

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

Mike King
Executive Director

Loretta E. Pineda
Director

**Re: West Elk Mine (Permit No. C-1980-007)
Bond Release Application No. 5 (SL-5)**

To Whom It May Concern:

Please publish the enclosed legal notice once per week for two consecutive weeks, as soon as possible. For reimbursement, please send the invoice and proof of publication to Ms. Mary Rodriguez of our office at the above address. For questions or correspondence regarding the publication, please contact me.

Thank you for your cooperation.

James R. Stark
Environmental Protection Specialist
Jim.stark@state.co.us

Enclosure

C-SL-14

Notice of Proposed Decision

The Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety has issued a proposed decision to Approve Bond Release Application No. 5 (SL-5) for the West Elk Mine, Permit No. C-1980-007. The Underground operation is operated by Mountain Coal Company, LLC under the provisions of the Colorado Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Act of 1979. The bond release application was submitted by Mountain Coal Company, LLC on February 11, 2013. The Mountain Cola Company, LLC has submitted a Partial Phase I Bond Release application for the West Elk Mine. The Partial Phase I Bond Release application is for methane drainage well sealing, drill pad and access road backfilling and grading and drainage control reestablishment. The reclaimed methane drainage wells were located in the West Flatiron, Box Canyon and Dry Fork of the Minnesota Creek areas. This is a Partial Phase I Bond Release application so there will be no changes to the permit boundary or the disturbed area. There will be a decrease in the mine's reclamation liability as a result of this Partial Phase I Bond Release. The amount of the liability release will be determined following the Division's review of the application and the field inspection. The affected area is located in Delta, Gunnison County, approximately 9 miles East of Paonia, Colorado.

Copies of the proposed decision are available for review at the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety office, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, Colorado 80203, and on the Division's website at <http://mining.state.co.us/Reports/MiningData/Pages/ImagedDocumentData.aspx>. A user's guide for our document imaging system is also available in pdf format at the same web address.

Any person who has an interest which is or may be adversely affected may request an adjudicatory hearing regarding this proposed decision. Requests for a hearing must be made in writing within thirty (30) days of the first publication of this notice, and shall state with reasonable specificity the reasons for the request and objections to the proposed decision.