

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
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March 6, 2014

USDA Forest Service
P.O. Box 1030
Paonia, CO 81428

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)**

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter, in accordance with Rule 3.03.2(5)(a) of the Rules and Regulations of the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board for Coal Mining, is to inform you that the 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. This decision will be published in the *Delta County Independent*, as soon as possible. Publication of the notice initiates a thirty (30) day public comment period. If, within thirty days, there are no requests for an adjudicatory hearing, the decision will become final.

As an interested party, you have the right to an adjudicatory hearing as outlined under Rule 3.03.2(6) of the Rules and Regulations. The request for an adjudicatory hearing must be written and state with specificity the reasons why the hearing is requested. The request must be received within thirty days of the first publication of the proposed decision in the *Delta County Independent*.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,

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

C-SL-11