



COLORADO

**Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, CO 80203

June 10, 2014

Alan Boehms
Office of Surface Mining
Western Regional Coordinating Center
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202

**Re: West Elk Mine (Permit No. C-1980-007)
Bond Release Application No. 7 (SL-7)**

Dear Mr. Boehms:

Mountain Coal Company, LLC has applied for a bond release at the West Elk Mine. The bond release application was found complete by this Division on June 9, 2014. The Mountain Coal Company, LLC has submitted a Partial Phase I Bond Release application for the West Elk Mine. This release is for B and E-Seam methane drainage wells and their associated light-use roads within the West Flatiron and the Dry Fork of the Minnesota Creek areas. All of the request areas are on National Forest surface. The applicant is requesting the release of approximately 19.23 acres and \$97,871.00 for the backfilling and regrading and drainage control reestablishment of the requested areas. The requested acreage and liability amounts will be determined based on the Division's inspection. There is no proposed decrease in the mine's permitted, affected or disturbed acreages as a result of this revision. Since this is a Partial Phase I Bond Release, there will be a decrease in the mine's reclamation liability as a result of this revision. The surface ownership is federal and private, and the coal mined was federal and private.

We will contact you to advise you of the Division's required bond release inspection of the site as soon as it has been scheduled. A proposed decision on the application will be issued within sixty (60) days of our inspection.

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-03