



COLORADO

**Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, CO 80203

July 7, 2015

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. 8 (SL-8)**

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 July 7, 2015. The Mountain Coal Company, LLC has submitted a Partial Phase I Bond Release application for the West Elk Mine. The requested release is for sealing of mine ventilation boreholes and the reclamation of their associated drill pads and light-use roads. The reclaimed sites were for longwall panel E3 and are located in the Dry Fork of Minnesota Creek. All reclamation was completed in 2014. The application requests the release of approximately 10.05 acres and \$110,452.00. There are no proposed changes to the mine's permitted, affected or disturbed acreages 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