

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215 Denver, CO 80203

December 2, 2015

Bond Safeguard Insurance Company 10002 Shelbyville Road, Suite 100 Louisville, KY 40223

Re: West Elk Mine (Permit No. C-1980-007) Bond Release Application No. 8 (SL-8) Bond No. 5010562

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter, as required by Rule 3.03.2(5)(a) of the Rules and Regulations, is to inform you that the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety has issued a proposed decision to approve Bond Release Application No. 8 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.

The bond for the operation is a Corporate Surety issued by your company (Bond No. 5010562), in the amount of \$5,000,000.00. The proposed release amount is (\$110,452.00).

Please be aware that this notification is not a request to initiate any action by Bond Safeguard Insurance Company concerning Bond No. 5010562, and is for your information only. Should Mountain Coal Company, LLC chose to take action with regard to this bond release, they will contact you.

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

Sincerely,

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

cc: Alysha H. Hernandez, CDRMS

