



COLORADO

**Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, CO 80203

December 29, 2015

Kathleen G. Welt
Mountain Coal Company, LLC
P.O. Box 591
Somerset, CO 81434

**Re: West Elk Mine (Permit No. C-1980-007)
Bond Release Application No. 9 (SL-9)**

Dear Ms. Welt:

We have received your application, proof of publication, and copies of written notices concerning bond release at the West Elk Mine. Our initial review indicates that all preliminary items required by Rule 3.03.2(1) regarding bond release applications and contents, have been submitted. Thus, your application has been deemed complete for the purposes of filing on December 29, 2015. All review and comment periods as provided in the Act and the Regulations promulgated thereunder initiate from this date of filing.

If you have not yet done so, please immediately submit a copy your bond release application to:

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

Denver, CO 80202



We are currently reviewing your bond release application to determine whether the items you have submitted are adequate in terms of meeting the requirements of the Act and Regulations. Weather permitting, we will conduct a bond release inspection of the site within thirty (30) days. You will be contacted by the Division to notify you of the scheduled inspection, which you may elect to attend. The Division will issue a proposed decision on the release application within 60 days of the inspection.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L. Simmons", is positioned below the word "Sincerely".

Leigh D. Simmons
Environmental Protection Specialist
Leigh.Simmons@state.co.us