



COLORADO

**Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, CO 80203

December 29, 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. 9 (SL-9)**

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 December 29, 2015. Mountain Coal Company (MCC) is requesting Phase III Bond Release for reclaimed methane ventilation wells and associated road segments at the Deep Creek, Long Draw, Long Draw Saddle, and West Point Road areas. These areas comprise approximately 22.1 acres of private and National Forest System land in Gunnison County, Colorado. Reclamation was completed between 2002 and 2004. 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,

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



C-SL-03