



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
Reclamation and Enforcement
Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050



August 29, 2017

Mike Boulay, Director
Office of Mined Land Reclamation
Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, CO 80203-2273

RE: Approval of SL-10 Phase III Bond Release, Roadside Portals Mine, Permit No. C-1981-041

Dear Mr. Boulay,

This letter acknowledges the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), Denver Field Branch (DFB) receipt and review of the above Phase III Bond Release Proposed Decision document prepared by the Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety (DRMS) dated Jul 26, 2016. The Proposed Decision documents the applicant's compliance with the approved Colorado regulatory program at Rule 3.03.2.

DRMS's proposed decision approves 4.0 acres of Phase III bond release. This bond release applies to portions of the Roadside Mine northeast of Palisade, Colorado. OSMRE participated in the bond release inspection held on April 24, 2017. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) also participated in the inspection. By letter dated August 10, 2017, the BLM provided its concurrence with the SL-10 bond release (attached). OSMRE interprets the BLM's concurrence to mean the Roadside Mine is in compliance with all BLM coal lease stipulations.

OSMRE agrees with DRMS that Snowcap Coal Company, Inc. has met or exceeded the requirements for Phase III bond release on the specified 4.0 acres of land as described in DRMS Proposed Decision document. The Division currently holds a performance bond in the amount of \$805,952.60 for the Roadside Mine, with a liability of \$79,791.40. DRMS proposes to release \$14,089.16 of liability with this bond release action (\$4,733.13 less than the amount Snowcap Coal Company requested) revising the liability down to \$65,702.24. OSMRE agrees with the findings and decision document and hereby provides concurrence for the above bond release action in accordance with 30 CFR 740.15 (d) (3), and 30 CFR 906.30, Article IX, Section 24, of the State-Federal Cooperative Agreement.

Thank you and your staff for coordinating this Federal mine bond release action through the DFB. Please direct any questions concerning this action to Dan MacKinnon, Natural Resources Specialist at dmackinnon@OSMRE.gov or (303) 293-5011.

Sincerely,

Howard E. Strand, Manager
Denver Field Branch

Cc: Tonya Hammond, Snowcap Coal Company Inc.
Kathryn Stevens, BLM Field Office Grand Junction, CO



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Grand Junction Field Office
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www.co.blm.gov/gjra/gjra/html

In Reply Refer To:
3400(COS-080)

August 10, 2017

Memorandum

To: Christine Belka, Environmental Protection Specialist, OSM, Western Region
Daniel MacKinnon, Natural Resource Specialist, OSM

From: Field Manager, Grand Junction Field Office

Subject: Roadside Portals Mine (C-1981-041) Bond Release Application No. 10 (SL-10)

Snowcap Coal Company, Inc. (SCC) applied to the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety (CDRMS) for partial Phase III bond release (SL-10) on 4.0 acres of their Roadside Portals project. The Roadside Portals project is located in Mesa County, approximately three miles northeast of Palisade, Colorado. The SL-10 application was received by DRMS on March 10, 2017. It was deemed complete on April 6, 2017. SCC notified the public, all interested parties, and all interested government agencies. A bond release inspection was conducted on April 24, 2017 by CDRMS, BLM, and the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, and Enforcement.

GJFO has reviewed the bond release application No. 10 for the Roadside Portals project and **concurs** with the CDRMS decision to partially release bonding related to Phase III reclamation of the 4.0 acres. This will reduce the current liability by \$14,089.16, leaving a remainder of **\$65,702.24**. 11.0 acres of disturbance are currently still covered by the remaining liability. The specific area of the proposed bond release request applies to:

T10S, R98W; portions of Sections 27 and 28;

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Eric Eckberg at (970) 244-3077.

Sincerely,

/S/ Katie A. Stevens

Kathryn Stevens
Field Manager