

Snowcap Coal Company, Inc. / Roadside Portals Mine Bond Release Inspection  
(Phase III, SL-10)

Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS) Permit ID # C-1981-041

April 24, 2017

Participants:

Tonya Hammond, Snowcap Coal Company  
James E. Stover, P.E., J. E. Stover & Associates, Inc. (Consulting Engineer)  
Janet Binns, DRMS  
Eric Eckberg, BLM  
Dan MacKinnon, OSMRE

I participated in a partial Phase III bond release inspection at the Roadside Portals mine. The surface ownership is the Town of Palisade and coal mined was private. DRMS administers the bond release process in part through the State-Federal Cooperative Agreement found at 30 CFR, Part 906.30.

Prior to the inspection I reviewed the bond release application received by DRMS on March 10, 2017. The application and subsequent correspondence in the record document that James E. Stover, Consulting Engineer, provided notifications of the bond release inspection as required by Colorado Rule 3, Performance Bond Requirements. These notifications included the surface owners of the permit area proposed for release, surface landowners adjacent to the permit area, local, State, and Federal governmental agencies, utility companies, and the public at large.

The purpose of this inspection was to evaluate the on-the-ground conditions with respect to the Roadside Portals Mine's Phase III bond release application. With regard to this SL-10 Phase III bond release, Snowcap Coal Company (SCC) applied for a partial Phase III bond release of 4.0 acres of disturbed lands associated with the Cameo Refuse Disposal Area #1, G Substation, and Pond 11.

A current performance bond in the amount of \$805,952.60 is in place for this mine, with the remaining liability prior to approval of SL-10 being \$79,791.40. Of this amount, \$18,822.29 was initially requested for release by SCC; DRMS then proposed in their decision document to release \$14,089.16. The acreage under consideration for this bond release has an approved industrial post-mining land use.

The inspection began on the afternoon of April 24, 2017 with the participants meeting at the mine site. The lands under consideration for this bond release are in the process of becoming an indoor / outdoor shooting complex. We first visited the former Pond 11 area. Within this area, the Vegetation is adequate for an industrial Phase III bond release. Some noxious weeds were present (e.g. cheatgrass), but desirable perennial shrubs, forbs, and grasses are abundant (Figure 1).

We continued to Substation G, which was in the process of being converted to a gravel parking

lot. This section of the bond release area was level and no issues were noted (Figure 2). This area is adequate for an industrial Phase III bond release.

Finally, we travelled to CDRA #1 where this site was well vegetated with desirable perennials, and is adequate for an industrial Phase III bond release (Figure 3).

DRMS did not identify any significant issues with the reclamation of the Roadside Portals Mine that is being proposed for bond release, and no enforcement actions were taken during this inspection. This concluded the OSMRE portion of this partial Phase III bond release inspection.

Please address any questions concerning this report to Dan MacKinnon, Natural Resources Specialist, at [dmackinnon@osmre.gov](mailto:dmackinnon@osmre.gov) or to (303) 293-5011.



Figure 1 - Pond 11 reclamation with desirable shrubs, forbs, and grasses present.



Figure 2 - Parking lot construction at the former Substation G site.





Figure 3 - Desirable plant species present and abundant at the CDRA #1 site.