

STATE OF
COLORADO

Simmons - DNR, Leigh <leigh.simmons@state.co.us>

West elk

Neil Levine <nlevine@publicjustice.net>

Tue, May 5, 2020 at 8:33 AM

To: "Simmons - DNR, Leigh" <leigh.simmons@state.co.us>

Thanks Leigh. That 2017 request was for the Feb 1, 2015 through Feb 1 2020 royalty period. It would be appear to have expired.

From: Simmons - DNR, Leigh <leigh.simmons@state.co.us>**Sent:** Tuesday, May 5, 2020 6:42 AM**To:** Neil Levine <nlevine@publicjustice.net>**Subject:** Re: West elk

Neil,

I don't have any additional information for you about the royalty rate paid at the West Elk mine.

In order to reduce the royalty rate the operator would need to apply to the Bureau of Land Management, with justification. It is then up to the BLM to decide whether to grant the rate reduction or deny it. In the past the Division has been asked to comment on the BLM's proposed decision, but there is no requirement for the Division's involvement.

The last request for comments on royalty rate reduction at the West Elk mine was received by the Division on August 14, 2017.

Leigh Simmons
Environmental Protection Specialist

**COLORADO**
Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety
Department of Natural Resources

P 303.866.3567 x 8121 | C 720.220.1180 | F 303.832.8106
1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203
leigh.simmons@state.co.us | <http://mining.state.co.us/>

On Mon, May 4, 2020 at 3:25 PM Neil Levine <nlevine@publicjustice.net> wrote:

Hi Leigh

I am inquiring about the mine's royalty rate reduction. My records suggest the 2015 reduction is expiring this year (or perhaps it has already). Can you tell me the status of the 2015 reduction and any requests by the mine to continue a reduction of the royalty rate. Thanks.