



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

December 6, 2023

Jessica Wilczek
Mountain Coal Company, LLC
5174 Highway 133
Somerset, CO 81434

Re: West Elk Mine (Permit No. C-1980-007)
Surety Release No. 16, (SL-16)
Initial Adequacy Review

Dear Ms. Wilczek,

The Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) has completed a review of materials submitted by Mountain Coal Company, LLC (MCC) in support of the SL-16 Partial Phase II Bond Release application. Please respond to the adequacy items below.

1. Figure 1 is a screen shot of the table from the [SL-16 application packet](#), showing sites included in the of sites included in the application. Several of these sites have not been reclaimed and should be removed from the application, (a portion of the sites were also included in the original [SL-13 application](#), later removed at the Division's request following the inspection).

Table 1 shows the Division's notes on the SL-16 sites collected during the SL-16 inspection, with the reclamation status of each site.

Please review Figure 1 and Table 1, and submit an update to the SL-16 application packet with a revised list of sites to be included.

Feel free to contact me by phone or email if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Leigh Simmons
Environmental Protection Specialist



Legal Description of the Area Requested for Bond Release: The following table, Mountain Coal Company West Elk Mine 2022 Phase II Bond Release Eligible Reclaimed Areas presents the locations or sites to be considered for bond release under this application. The reclaimed areas requesting bond release are located within the current permit area and are found within Sections 33-36, T13S, R90 W; and Sections 1-3, T14S, R90W; all within the 6th Prime Meridian, Gunnison County, Colorado.

**Mountain Coal Company West Elk Mine
2022 Phase II Bond Release Eligible Reclaimed Areas**

Hole #	Hole # (as-drilled)	Hole Descriptor	Road Area (acres)	Pad Area (acres)	Reclamation Date
E2-56	E2-54	E2-54	0	1.07	2012
E2-55	E2-52	E2-52	0	0	2012
E2-54	E2-51	E2-51	0	0	2012
E2-13		E2-13	0.22	0.47	2013
E3-72		E3-72			2014
E3-67.5	E3-68	E3-68		0.91	2014
E3-65		E3-65			2014
E3-64		E3-64	0.82	0.72	2014
E3-52	E3-51	E3-51		0.5	2014
E3-30	E3-29	E3-29	0.5	0.55	2015
E4-16	E4-15	E4-15	0	0.59	2016
E4-12.5	E4-16	E4-16	0.11	0.58	2016
E4-9	E4-17	E4-17	0	0.58	2016
E5-75	E5-1	E5-1	0.16	1.13	2017
E5-74	E5-2	E5-2			2017
E5-73	E5-3	E5-3			2017
E5-69	E5-4	E5-4	0.07	0.73	2017
E5-65	E5-5	E5-5	0	0.46	2017
E5-61	E5-6	E5-6	0.2	0.54	2017
E5-57.5	E5-7	E5-7			2017
E5-54	E5-8	E5-8	0.12	0.8	2017
E5-50	E5-9	E5-9	0.06	0.82	2017
E5-46	E5-10	E5-10	0		2017
E5-42.5	E5-11	E5-11	0	0.62	2017
E5-39	E5-12	E5-12	0	0.82	2017
E5-35	E5-13	E5-13	0		2017
E5-31	E5-14	E5-14	1.09	0.54	2017
E5-27.5	E5-15	E5-15	1.44	0.62	2017
E5-24	E5-16	E5-16	0.91	1.16	2017
E5-20	E5-17	E5-17	0	0.32	2017
E5-16	E5-18	E5-18	0	0.51	2017
		10LWE5X40 on ATV tri			2017
		11LWE5X40 same as E5-12			2017
		10LWE6X62			2017
		11LWE6X63			
5-11-1		5-11-1 Mon. Well			2015
5-12-1		5-12-1 Mon. Well			2015
Eligible Reclaimed Acreage (Road, Pad, Total)			5.7	15.04	20.74

Figure 1: Screenshot of table from SL-16 application

Table 1: SL-16 inspection notes

Site	Phase	Landowner	Status	Comments
E2-13	N/A	USFS	Not reclaimed	Remove from application
E2-51/52/54	N/A	USFS	Not reclaimed	Remove from application
E3-29	N/A	USFS	Not reclaimed	Remove from application
E3-51	N/A	USFS	Not reclaimed	Remove from application
E3-64/65	N/A	USFS	Not reclaimed	Remove from application
E3-68/72	N/A	USFS	Not reclaimed	Remove from application
E4-15	II	USFS	Inspected, no problem	
E4-16 and road	II	USFS	Inspected, no problem	
E4-17	II	USFS	Inspected, no problem	
E5-1/2/3	II	USFS	Inspected, no problem	Heavily grazed. Weeds have been sprayed
E5-4	II	USFS	Inspected, no problem	Thistle has been sprayed
E5-5	II	USFS	Inspected, no problem	Different vegetation, mostly grass and rabbitbrush
E5-6/7	II	USFS	Inspected, no problem	
E5-8	II	USFS	Inspected, no problem	Lots of yarrow. Bare patch on NE edge, with some thistle. Consider supplemental seeding.
E5-9/10	II	USFS	Inspected, no problem	Needs spraying for houndstongue, few thistle
E5-11	N/A	USFS	Not reclaimed	Remove from application
E5-12/13/11LWE5X40 and road	II	USFS	Inspected, no problem	Quite a lot of houndstongue on road, has been sprayed
E5-14 and road	II	USFS	Inspected, no problem	Very few weeds. Has been sprayed.
E5-15 and road	II	USFS	Inspected, no problem	Thistle has obviously been sprayed. Houndstongue too?
E5-16	II	USFS	Inspected, no problem	Thistle, houndstongue and mullein have been sprayed. Some big patches to keep an eye on.
E5-17	II	USFS	Inspected, no problem	Spot treat for thistle
E5-18	II	USFS	Inspected, no problem	
10LWE5X40	II	USFS	Inspected, no problem	
10LWE6X62	II	USFS	Inspected, no problem	
11LWE6X53	II	USFS	Inspected, no problem	Pretty weedy, whole pad needs sprayed
MW 5-11-1	N/A	USFS	Not inspected	Deep creek crossing impassable. Has not been through Phase I. Remove from application
MW 5-12-1	N/A	USFS	Not inspected	Deep creek crossing impassable. Has not been through Phase I. Remove from application