



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Little Snake Field Office
455 Emerson Street
Craig, Colorado 81625-1129

In Reply Refer To:

3474 (CON010)
COC-029225
COC-029226
C-1981-019 CDRMS Permit

Dan MacKinnon
Natural Resources Specialist USDO-OSMRE
P.O. Box 25065
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065

RE: Proposed Decision of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (CDRMS)
SL-22 Phase II Bond Release at the Colowyo Coal Mine, Permit Number C-1981-019.

Dear Mr. MacKinnon

This is to inform you that my staff has reviewed the CDRMS Findings of Compliance for Colowyo Coal Mine, and the Proposed Decision dated November 3, 2023. We concur with the CDRMS's findings to approve the Phase II Bond Release.

We note that CDRMS accepts that Colowyo Coal Mine conducted reclamation within the area known as the East and West Pit Area and has sufficiently replaced topsoil, established the success standard for vegetative cover, provided for the support of the post-mining land use of rangeland /wildlife habitat, and protected the hydrologic balance in accordance with the approved reclamation plan thereby meeting all requirements of the Act and the Rules at the site and further qualifying them for Phase II Bond Release.

We acknowledge that the reclaimed lands included in the bond release area total 148.4 acres and are adjacent to BLM Coal Lease COC-029225 within CDRMS C-1981-019 Mine Permit. We also acknowledge that the reclaimed area was once used to support Surface Mining activities and have determined that all the facilities and the related surface they occupied had served their useful purpose and were no longer necessary on these acres. We agree that the subject reclamation acres are completed as CDRMS reported. It is my decision that BLM-LSFO has no objection to the subject Phase II Bond release.

If you have any questions, please contact Foster Beckett at (970)-326-5198.

Sincerely,

Kymm Gresset
Little Snake Field Manager

cc: Zach Trujillo, Environmental Protection Specialist
CDRMS, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, CO 80202