



December 4, 2019

Sent via electronic mail

Spring Creek Coal LLC
67 Lakeshore Drive
PO Box 67
Decker, MT 59025

Permit ID: C1979012
Revision Type: Bond Release
Permitting Action: Deficiency
Subject: Completeness Deficiency; SL13, Phase I, II, III, and Final Bond Release

Dear Laura:

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) reviewed Bond Release Application SL13, for Phase I, II, III, and final bond release to determine if all the appropriate rules have been addressed. The following deficiencies must be addressed before the application can be ruled complete:

ARM 17.24.1111(2) requires that “applications must be filed at times or seasons that allow the department to evaluate properly the reclamation operations alleged to have been completed.” This application includes phases that must be viewed during the growing season. Completeness will not be determined until May 2020 at the earliest and an inspection will be scheduled at that time to properly investigate vegetated communities.

According to ARM17.24.1111(3), adjoining landowners must also be included in the landowner notification letters. According to the Montana Cadastral System, the Northern Cheyenne are adjacent landowners in Section 27, T8S, R40E and Jimmie Pierce is an adjoining landowner in Section 18, T8S, R40E who have not been included in the landowner letters. Please send them copies of the notification as described in ARM17.24.1111(3).

DEQ does not deal in portions of acres in bond release applications. Please round to the nearest whole number in any application materials. As some landowner letters have already been sent out, these do not need to be re-sent, but new letters should be rounded as described. Please correct the Public Notice prior to publishing.

Lockton Companies, LLC is listed for all of Spring Creek Coal’s bonds. This does not match the companies on file with DEQ. Please consult with DEQ to ensure the correct companies are listed as bond holders.

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Upon receipt of acceptable responses to these deficiencies and once the growing season for 2020 commences, DEQ will determine the application to be complete.

Please feel free to contact Mike Glenn at (406) 444-3401 with questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt R J", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matthew Dorrington
Coal Section
Coal and Opencut Mining Bureau
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C: Jeff Fleischman, OSM Casper Office
Erica Trent, OSM Denver Office
Frank Bartlett, OSM Casper Office