

PUBLIC NOTICE

Spring Creek Coal LLC operates the Spring Creek Mine located in Big Horn County, Montana under Surface Mining Permit No. C1979012 issued by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). The Surface Mine Permit was originally issued on April 11, 1979 and renewed on April 11, 2019. On October 4, 2019 SCC filed a request for partial bond release for Phase I on 54 acres, Phase II on 43 acres, and Phase III on 188 acres of completed reclamation work. Additionally, 19 acres of Pre 1989 Final Bond Release has been applied for on completed reclamation work, all four phases of bond release are in a Bond Release Request called SL13. The proposed release areas are located within portions of the following legally described lands:

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| T8S, R39E, Montana Prime Meridian | Sections 14, 22, 23, 24, 25, & 26 |
| T8S, R40E, Montana Prime Meridian | Sections 18, 19, 27, 28, 29, 30, 34 & 35 |
| T9S, R40E, Montana Prime Meridian | Sections 3 & 10 |

Phase I reclamation work includes backfilling, regrading, drainage control and plugging of drill holes. Phase II reclamation work includes spoil and soil tillage, soil redistribution, elapse of at least two growing seasons since seeding, and noxious weed control. Phase III and pre 1989 Final Bond Release reclamation work includes demonstrating applicable revegetation criteria have been achieved and establishment of a stable landscape consistent with the approved post-mining land use. These activities were completed prior to September 2019 in accordance with the approved reclamation plan.

The current total approved amount of the Spring Creek Coal LLC bond is \$110,000,000. Spring Creek Coal LLC is seeking no dollar reduction in the current mine reclamation bond amount and is requesting liability release only.

A complete copy of the Spring Creek Coal LLC Application for bond release is available for inspection at the following locations:

- 1) Montana Department of Environmental Quality, 1218 E 6th Avenue, Helena, MT
- 2) Spring Creek Mine, Lakeshore Drive, Decker, MT
- 3) The application can be viewed online at <http://deq.mt.gov/Public/ea/coal> or by emailing
- 4) A computer will be available at the Hardin Library to view the application at <http://deq.mt.gov/Public/ea/coal>

Electronic copies of the application may be requested by visiting the website <http://deq.mt.gov/Public/ea/coal> or by emailing DEQCoal@mt.gov.

Written comments, objections, or requests for informal conferences on this application may be submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality, Coal Section, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901 within 30 days of receipt of the final publication of this notice or by going to <http://svc.mt.gov/deq/publiccomment/>.