

Coal Section, Montana Department of Environmental Quality Coal and Uranium Prospecting Bond Release Instructions (Updated August 2025)

Include all of the following in the application:

1. Cover Letter
2. Prospecting Bond Release Form (attached)
 - a. Fill in all blanks and provide a detailed answer for each question. Write “None” or “N/A” or “See Attachment” if that is the correct answer.
3. Prospecting Monthly/Annual Report Form spreadsheet (attached)
 - a. Fill out the information for Bond Released holes only (third tab)
 - i. Note: This spreadsheet should be cumulative, including all previously bond released holes. Applicant can either continue this information from the original spreadsheet or update new spreadsheet accordingly. Include the Bond Release Number under Column T for each bond release hole and for past approved holes include the Bond Release Approval Date under Column U.
4. Public Notice (example attached)
 - a. Public Notice must contain all required information pursuant to ARM 17.24.1001(q). Use attached example to ensure all required information is included.
5. Drillhole Plugging Report (attached)
6. Bond Release Legal Description and Landowner List (attached)
7. Copies of letters to landowners per 82-4-232(6)(a), MCA
8. Relevant maps:
 - a. Copies in **both** PDF and CAD
 - b. Per ARM 17.24.1017(2)(c): final updated, certified maps that include the precise location of each prospecting disturbance and each permitted site that remains undisturbed. Maps must be of a workable scale with topographic delineations equal to or better than those found on United States geological survey topographic maps;

Email complete package to DEQCoal@mt.gov if under 6MB.

If over 6MB, send package as a Zip File to DEQCoal@mt.gov through the [State File Transfer Service](#).

Public Notice instructions:

Upon Completeness Determination, applicant will need to initiate the public notice as follows:

1. Pursuant to ARM 17.24.1017(3) the applicant shall advertise the approved public notice of the application in a newspaper of general circulation in the locality of the permit area

at least once a week for **two** consecutive weeks with a **30-day** comment period after last date of publication.

2. Per ARM 17.24.1017(2)(d) the applicant shall submit proof of publication of the advertisement, please email the affidavit to DEQCoal@mt.gov once received.