
Coal Section, Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Coal Bond Release Instructions
(Updated March 2026)

Include all of the following in the application:

1. Cover Letter
2. SMP 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. Public Notice (example attached)
 - a. Public Notice must contain all required information pursuant to ARM 17.24.1112(b) through (h). Use attached example to ensure all required information is included.
4. Copies of letters to landowners per 82-4-232(6)(a), MCA
5. Bond Release Legal Description and Landowner List (attached)
6. Relevant maps:
 - a. Copies in **both** PDF and CAD

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 17.24.1112(a) 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 **four** consecutive weeks with a **30-day** comment period after last date of publication.
2. Per ARM 17.24.1111(6) the applicant shall submit proof of publication of the advertisement, please email the affidavit to DEQCoal@mt.gov once received.

Bond instructions:

Upon Approval, applicant would need to submit bond rider according to the amount determined in the approval letter if applicable in order to reduce the bond amount. For bond documents sent to DEQ:

1. Once signed by company representative and notarized, send a scanned copy to Ashley Eichhorn (aeichhorn@mt.gov) for an initial review.
2. Send original bond document, preferably via FedEx or UPS for tracking, to DEQ Coal Section, 2401 Colonial Drive, Helena MT 59601.

3. Be sure to provide an updated Proof of Agency if information has changed with updates to Ownership and Control.