**Mining Bureau- Hard Rock Mining Section**

**Application for Bond Release for Hard Rock Mining Operating Permit**

During the term of an operating permit issued under the Metal Mine Reclamation Act (MMRA), an operator may apply for a release or reduction in the reclamation bond amount under certain conditions:

* A bond filed in accordance with the provisions of the MMRA may not be released by the department until the provisions of the MMRA, the associated adopted rules, and the permit requirements have been fulfilled. (82-4-338(4), Montana Code Annotated- MCA)
* The operator may not apply for an amendment to delete disturbed acreage except following reclamation, as required under 82-4-336, MCA and bond release for the disturbance, as required under 82-4-338, MCA. (82-4-342(1), MCA)
* A bond filed for an operating permit may not be released or decreased until the public has been provided an opportunity for a hearing and a hearing has been held if requested. The department shall provide reasonable statewide and local notice of the opportunity for hearing, including but not limited to publishing the notice in newspaper of general daily circulation. The department shall provide a 30-day comment period in the notice. A request for hearing must be submitted to the department in writing within the comment period. (82-4-338(5), MCA and Administrative Rules of Montana- ARM 17.24.141(8))
* Bond released from completed activities may not be applied to subsequent activities or increments until the department has inspected the site, provided public notice and opportunity for comment on the release, and approved the request for release in compliance with 82-4-338, MCA. (ARM 17.24.140(6))

**Form Directions:** The permittee must include sufficient information within the bond release application to demonstrate that activities have been completed in accordance with the requirements of the approved Reclamation Plan (82-4-336, MCA). The bond release application must include all information required by ARM 17.24.141, as outlined and cited within the following pages.

1. **Please provide detailed answers on the following application form and submit any reports, maps or figures, cover letter, replacement pages, or other supplemental information that may be needed to explain and support the proposed bond release.**
2. **Please save the completed form, preferably as Adobe PDF, and submit all application materials to the following parties:**
	* **DEQ Hard Rock main account (****deqhardrock@mt.gov****)**
	* **Millie Olsen (****millie.olsen@mt.gov****)**
	* **Lead inspector for your operating permit (*varies*)**

**Application for Bond Release for Hard Rock Mining Operating Permit**

Submittal Date: Click or tap here to enter text.

Operating Permit Number: Click or tap here to enter text.

Permittee Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

Permittee Address: Click or tap here to enter text.

Bond Release Location (legal description or latitude/longitude): Click or tap here to enter text.

List of Application Attachments: Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Acreage and Bond Accounting**:

**Current Total Bond Amount:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Current Obligated Bond Amount:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Current Unobligated Bond Amount:** Click or tap here to enter text.

 **Estimated Bond Release Amount (if known):** Click or tap here to enter text.

**The permittee’s requested disposition of potentially released bond:**

[ ]  Reallocate to Unobligated Bond, to be available for the future

[ ]  Release to Permittee

**This bond release request includes the following component(s):**

[ ]  Partial Bond Release:

 Area (acres): Click or tap here to enter text.

Details: Click or tap here to enter text.

[ ]  Full Bond Release:

 Area (acres): Click or tap here to enter text.

Details: Click or tap here to enter text.

[ ]  Reduction in Total Permit Area:

Reduction Area (acres): Click or tap here to enter text.

New Total Area (acres): Click or tap here to enter text.

[ ]  Reduction in Total Disturbance Area:

Reduction Area (acres): Click or tap here to enter text.

New Total Area (acres): Click or tap here to enter text.

[ ]  Areas subject to pre-July 1, 1974, bonding levels

Pre-July 1, 1974 Area (acres): Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **For Bond Reduction/Release of UNDISTURBED LANDS-** *ARM 17.24.141(5)*
2. **Has the proposed bond release area been previously disturbed by mining activity?**

[ ]  **Yes. Complete Part C instead.**

[ ]  **No. Complete questions 2 through 5 below. Do not complete Part C.**

1. **DEQ shall conduct an inspection of the proposed area before responding to the request. Has DEQ conducted an inspection of the undisturbed lands?**

[ ]  Yes, date(s) of inspection(s): Click or tap here to enter text.

[ ]  No, pending

1. **For the bond reduction request, the permittee shall submit a map of the area in question.**

 [ ]  Release Area Maps/Figures Attached

Details: Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **For the bond reduction request, the permittee shall revise the appropriate active operation maps.**

 [ ]  Active Operations Maps/Figures Attached

Details: Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **For the bond reduction request, the permittee shall document that the area has not been disturbed as a result of previous operating activities. Response** (summarize prior permitting and planning assumptions; explain the reason(s) that the area was not disturbed; provide necessary figures, photos, and/or maps, etc.):

 [ ]  Pages Attached

Details: Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **For Bond Reduction/Release of PREVIOUSLY DISTURBED LANDS-** *ARM 17.24.141(6)*
2. **DEQ shall conduct an inspection of the proposed area before responding to the request. Has DEQ conducted an inspection of the previously disturbed and reclaimed lands?**

[ ]  Yes, date(s) of inspection(s): Click or tap here to enter text.

[ ]  No, pending

1. **For the bond reduction request, the permittee shall submit a map or maps showing the location of reclamation and a determination of the area, in acres, that was reclaimed:**

 [ ]  Release Area Maps/Figures Attached

Details: Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **For the bond reduction request, the permittee shall revise the appropriate active operation maps.**

 [ ]  Active Operations Maps/Figures Attached

Details: Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **For the bond reduction request, the permittee shall submit a description of the reclamation that provides sufficient details to demonstrate compliance with the approved Reclamation Plan. Response:** (summarize prior disturbance; summarize reclamation methods and specifications in Reclamation Plan; discussion may include cut/fill balances, slope angles, soil volume and depth for soil placement, vegetation mixes, seeding or planting methods, weed control, dates for completing activities, etc.)

 [ ]  Pages Attached

Details: Click or tap here to enter text.