

## Denver Field Branch Bond Release Evaluation Report

**Company:** Alton Coal Development, LLC  
**Mine:** Coal Hollow Mine  
**Permit:** C/025/0005  
**Date of Inspection:** February 6, 2018  
**Weather:** Clear, sunny, and dry, temperatures in the 30s, ground also dry  
**Company Officials:** Riley Anderson, Andrew Christensen, and Kirk Nicholes  
**State Officials:** Priscilla Burton, Daron Haddock, Todd Miller, and Bev Wiser  
**Landowners:** Arkay Pugh, Burt Pugh, and Ken Pugh  
**UT DEQ:** Alex Pashley  
**OSMRE Official:** Dan MacKinnon

### Background

This was a Phase I bond release evaluation at the Coal Hollow Mine, located in Kane County, Utah. Alton Coal Development, LLC proposes Phase I release on 24.107 acres of reclamation comprising the former Pits 7, 8, 9, and 10 of the North Private Lease where final grade, subsoil placement, and shaping for drainage control will be evaluated as defined within the terms of its approved permit.

The following described lands within this bond release application are located in Kane County Utah within the SE 1/4, NE 1/4 of Section 30, T39S, R5W. As provided by the operator: Beginning from the Section Corner 7-18 T39S, R5W and 12-13 T39S, R6W, proceeding N 00°33'37" E a distance of 2642.53' along the section line to the Quarter Corner 18, T39S, R5W and 13, T39S, R6W; thence S 78°31'30" W a distance of 1251.46' to the true point of beginning; thence S 76°24'45" E a distance of 205.28'; thence N 89°55'02" E a distance of 513.00'; thence 55°41'43" E a distance of 83.23'; thence N 89°39'40" E a distance of 96.53'; thence N 67°14'06" E a distance of 71.54'; thence N 05°57'04" W a distance of 332.53'; thence N 01°53'28" E a distance of 268.04'; thence N 42°26'00" E a distance of 84.70'; thence N 01°31'25" E a distance of 188.50'; thence N 21°15'29" W a distance of 181.81'; thence N 08°46'19" W a distance of 21.57'; thence S 88°14'20" W a distance of 973.08'; thence S 03°23'30" E a distance of 1039.93'; which is the point of beginning, having an area of 1,050,118.09 square feet.

Coal Hollow's current permit is valid through November 8, 2020 according to a DOGM inspection report dated November 7, 2017. The mine is active and producing coal. For the parcel under this bond release application, the post mine land use is grazing for livestock and wildlife. According to the bond release application, notification of the proposed bond release was posted in the Southern Utah News on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>, as required. Surface and coal ownership of the area under consideration is private. At this time, Alton Coal Development, LLC is not requesting a change in its bond amount.

Utah outlines requirements for Phase I bond release within its Administrative Code at R645-301-880.310. For a Phase I bond release application to be approved, Utah regulations require the operator to complete backfilling and regrading (which may include the replacement of topsoil) and drainage control of a bonded area in accordance with the approved reclamation plan.

Prior to and upon conclusion of this evaluation, I reviewed documents available through the online permitting database maintained by DOGM including the Phase I bond release application (Task ID# 5597), Volume 2 of the Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP), the past 12 months' of the DOGM inspection documents, and the Utah Administrative Code.

**Observations**

All attendees began the evaluation by meeting in the mine office to review the mine's history, the current mining plan, and the reclamation that was accomplished on the area under consideration for this bond release. We then set out to the field portion of the evaluation, which included one contiguous parcel. The weather was calm, sunny, and cool.

The reclaimed acreage has been effectively reshaped and contoured, and consists of lands that are: undisturbed; only regraded (Figures 1, 2, and 3); regraded and topsoiled (Figure 4); and regraded, topsoiled, and seeded (Figure 5). I walked the entire perimeter and throughout the interior of the parcel and found the area to be effectively backfilled and regraded as described within the MRP. The contour of the parcel will also effectively control drainage. The lands that had been regraded and topsoiled (including the portion that had been reseeded) were not surveyed for appropriate topsoil thickness during this inspection.

**Conclusion**

The backfilling, regrading, and drainage control I observed during this evaluation are in accordance with the approved reclamation plan. The contour work also blends reasonably well with surrounding areas.

Please address any questions concerning this report to Dan MacKinnon, Natural Resources Specialist, at [dmackinnon@osmre.gov](mailto:dmackinnon@osmre.gov) or (303) 293-5011.

cc: DOGM



**Figure 1 - Portion of the bond release only backfilled and regraded (i.e. without topsoil or seeding).**



**Figure 2 - Another portion of the bond release only backfilled and regraded.**



Figure 3 - Example of proper drainage and slope on the site.



**Figure 4 - Showing the portion of the site that is in the process of being topsoiled. The red line indicates the approximate boundary between topsoiled (to the left of the line) and un-topsoiled (to the right of the line) areas.**



**Figure 5 - Area regraded, topsoiled, and seeded. This area has also been disked and mulched.**