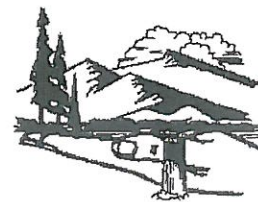




Department of Environmental Quality

To protect, conserve and enhance the quality of Wyoming's environment for the benefit of current and future generations.



Matthew H. Mead, Governor

Todd Parfitt, Director

October 26, 2015

Mr. Patrick Crank
Crank Legal Group
1815 Evans Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82003-1709

Shannon Anderson
Powder River Basin Resource Council
934 N. Main Street
Sheridan, WY 82801

RE: Request for Director's Review and Informal Conference
Self-Bond Substitution Notice for Permit 214 (Belle Ayr) and Permit 428 (Eagle Butte)

Dear Mr. Crank and Ms. Anderson,

At this time, the Department of Environmental Quality is subject to an order signed on October 8, 2015, by the U.S. bankruptcy judge presiding over the ongoing bankruptcy case of Alpha Natural Resources, Inc., and Alpha Coal West, Inc. See Stipulation and Order Concerning Debtors' Reclamation Bonding of Their Surface Coal Mining Operations in Wyoming, court document docket no. 628, entered in the case, *In re Alpha Natural Resources, Inc., et al.*, Ch. 11 Case No. 15-33896 (KRH) (Bankr. E.D. Va.), and available at <http://www.kccllc.net/alpharestructuring>. I believe that both of you already have a copy of that order.

The bankruptcy court's order stays the director's review and informal conference proceedings that Alpha Natural Resources and Alpha Coal West requested regarding the self-bond substitution letter from the Department, dated May 26, 2015. *Id.* at pg. 5. Therefore, I will not schedule or hold an informal conference or otherwise proceed with a director's review of this matter while the stay is in effect. Following the end of the stay, I will advise you of how I intend to proceed.

Sincerely,

Todd Parfitt,
Director

cc: Kyle Wendtland, Land Quality Division Administrator
Andrew Kuhlmann, Senior Assistant Attorney General

