



Jenifer E. Scoggin, P.C.
Partner
T (307) 778-4227
F (307) 778-8175
JScoggin@hollandhart.com

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VIA HAND-DELIVERY

Todd Parfitt
Director
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
200 West 17th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002

RE: *In the Matter of the Proposed Transfer of Mine Permits 214-T8 and 428-T7 from Alpha Coal West, LLC to Contura Coal West, LLC*
TFNs 6 4/223 and 6 5/223 (Permit Nos. 214-T8 and 428-T7)
Department of Environmental Quality
State of Wyoming

Dear Director Parfitt:

As you know, we represent Contura Coal West, LLC (Contura). This letter is in response to that certain Director's Decision dated March 7, 2017 in the above-referenced case (Decision) in which you provided Contura 30 days from the date of the Decision to supply additional information related to Contura's personal property collateralized bonds.

Based on business factors, Contura has decided to replace its personal property collateralized bonds with third-party surety bonds. At this time, however, Contura intends to keep its real property collateralized bonds in place.

Pursuant to Section 5 of the Self-Bonding Regulations found in Chapter 11 of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Land Quality Coal Rules and Regulations (Rule), Contura hereby provides notice of its intent to replace its existing personal property collateralized bonds with alternate third-party surety bonds.

According to the Rule, Contura shall have 90 days to substitute the alternate surety bonds for the existing personal property collateralized bonds. While Contura works with the WDEQ to process the bond substitution, Contura notes that the personal property collateralized bonds will remain in place, thereby ensuring that the State of Wyoming is covered during all periods of time related to ongoing mining operations. Moreover, Contura will meet all of the requirements of the bond provisions of Wyoming Statute Sections 35-11-417 to 424.

Notably, the backing of third-party sureties is precisely what the Powder River Basin Resource Council (PRBRC) urged the WDEQ to require of Contura in these permit transfer proceedings. See Letter from Shannon Anderson, Staff Attorney, PRBRC to Kyle Wendtland, WDEQ Land

Quality Administrator (Dec. 12, 2016), Re: Objecting to the proposed Transfer of Mining Permits 428-T7 (Eagle Butte) and 214-T8 (Belle Ayr), p. 3.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (307) 778-4227.

Sincerely,



Jenifer E. Scoggin, P.C.
a Partner of Holland & Hart LLP

cc: Andrew Kuhlmann, Wyoming Attorney General's Office
Shannon Anderson, PRBRC