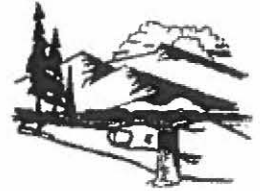




# Department of Environmental Quality

*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

**FILED**

NOV 13 2015

Jim Ruby, Executive Secretary  
Environmental Quality Council

May 26, 2015

Mark Thrall or Tim Anderson  
Alpha Coal West, Inc. - Belle Ayr Mine  
POB 3039  
Gillette, WY 82717-3039

**CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED 7012346000074232294**

Mark Thrall or Tim Anderson  
Alpha Coal West, Inc.- Eagle Butte Mine  
POB 3040  
Gillette, WY 82717-3040

**CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED 7012346000074232287**

**RE: Notice of substitution requirement of  
Self-bond No. SBC 128 for Permit No. 214 (Belle Ayr Mine) and  
Self-bond No. SBC 131 for Permit No. 428 (Eagle Butte Mine)**

Dear Alpha Coal West, Inc.:

Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Land Quality Division (LQD) has received and reviewed the letter from Alpha Natural Resources, Inc., dated May 20, 2015. In a letter dated April 20, 2015, LQD provided notice to you that the financial information submitted for the year-end 2014 indicated that Alpha Natural Resources, Inc., may not meet the corporate guarantor regulatory requirements. LQD allowed you 30 days to provide further financial information for year-end 2014 that LQD would consider prior to rendering a final decision on the above captioned self-bonds. LQD attended a conference call with Alpha Natural Resources (ANR) on April 21, 2015. At that meeting, ANR requested a copy of LQD's calculations. On April 21, 2015, LQD provided an email with the calculation information ANR requested. On May 13, 2015, LQD received a copy of the 10Q report for Alpha Natural Resources, Inc. that was provided to the Securities and Exchange Commission. On May 15, 2015, LQD met again with ANR. On May 20, 2015 ANR provided a letter with two attachments for LQD to consider. On May 21, 2015, LQD met with ANR a final time before rendering a decision.

LQD carefully reviewed all of the information provided and determined that Alpha Coal West, Inc., and Alpha Natural Resources, Inc., no longer qualify under the self-bonding program, and that the above captioned self-bonds fail to provide the protection consistent with the objectives and purposes of the Wyoming Environmental Quality Act and the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Land Quality Division Rules and Regulations for Coal.

Therefore, LQD is hereby requiring Alpha Coal West, Inc., to substitute for the above-captioned self-bonds either corporate sureties licensed to do business in the State of Wyoming, cash, governmental securities, federally insured certificates of deposit, or irrevocable letters of credit. That substitution shall

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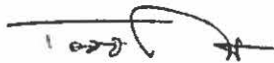
be made within 90 days of the date of this letter, pursuant to Chapter 11, Sections 5(a) and (b) of the LQD rules.

Regarding issues raised in the letter dated May 20, LQD is not requiring this substitution as part of a self-bond application or renewal application. Nor is the substitution being required based on a failure of the operator or guarantor to provide adequate information or materials. Therefore, Section 3(a) of the LQD Rules does not apply to this decision.

This decision may be subject to review pursuant to W.S. § 35-11-1001.

Because the additional questions raised in your letter dated May 20, 2015 do not affect this decision, LQD will address those questions by a separate letter.

Sincerely,



Todd Parfitt  
Director  
Department of Environmental Quality

*for Alan Edwards*  
for Kyle Wendtland  
Administrator  
Department of Environmental Quality  
Land Quality Division

CC: Jeff Eggleston, Alpha Natural Resources, Inc., POB 16429, Bristol, VA 24209