

Public Notice

Peabody Natural Resources Company (“PNRC”), PO Box 757, Grants, NM 87020, has filed an application for Phase III bond release, completion of final backfilling, grading, top soiling, approved final surface configuration and revegetation, lands within the Lee Ranch Mine Industrial use gravel pit, Permit No.19 -2P pursuant to the regulations at 19.8. 14.1412. A NMAC.

The Lee Ranch Mine, approved as a “Life of Mine” permit on May 18, 1990, by the Energy and Natural Resources Department, Mining and Minerals Division (“MMD”), is located in McKinley County approximately 35 miles north of Milan, New Mexico. The Lee Ranch Surface Coal Mine performance bond for permit 19-2P is \$78,000,000 to ensure the successful reclamation of disturbance within the 16,038 acres-permit area dated April 5, 2016. PNRC is not requesting a release of the performance bond should this application be approved by the Director of MMD.

Phase III of the approved reclamation plan, backfilling, grading, top soiling, and completion of the final surface configuration was completed on areas included in the application between 1987 and 2018. Backfilling, grading, top soiling, and revegetation have been conducted to create a stable landscape in conformance with the approved post-mining contours in the permit. Reclamation procedures support achievement of the post-mining land industrial use as well as livestock grazing. Reclamation results are tracked in Annual Reclamation Reports submitted to MMD. The total area requested for Phase III release is 317.9 acres located in Sections 21, 28 and 33 in Township 14N and Range 7W. The USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle sheets covering the area include “San Lucas Dam,” “El Dado,” “Cerro Alesna”, and “Piedra De La Aguila”. The centroid location of the release area parcels is approximately latitude 35° 30’ 57” N and Longitude 107° 36’ 42” W.

A copy of the Phase III bond release application is available for public inspection at the McKinley County Courthouse, County Clerk’s Office, 201 W. Hill, Gallup New Mexico; the Mother Whiteside Public Library, 1101 N. First St., Grants, New Mexico; and Mining and Minerals Division in Santa Fe, New Mexico or www.nmmine.com Coal Mine Reclamation webpage. Written comments, objections, or requests for informal conferences must be submitted to the Director of Mining and Minerals Division, 1220 South Saint Francis Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505 within 30 days after last publication of this notice.