



March 18, 2019

RE: PUBLIC NOTICE: APPLICATION FOR BOND RELEASE TWO BULL RIDGE MINE (PERMIT # S-0603)

Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc. (UCM), P.O. Box 1000, Healy, Alaska 99743, has requested Phase II Bond Release for a portion of their Two Bull Ridge Mine (permit number S-0603). UCM has requested a total of 48.2 acres for Phase II Bond Release. The bond release request for Phase II is based on UCM completing the revegetation requirements set forth AS 27.170 (c) (2). UCM has requested a release of \$77,688 of their \$5,515,248 reclamation bond.

As part of this request for bond release, UCM reported the following reclamation activities. These areas have robust vegetation and have remained stable for over a decade. Road banks were initially seeded in 2000 and had established grasses by 2002. The Badlands outslope was seeded numerous times between 2005 through 2007. The south portion of the Phase I mine area was initially seeded in 2003 and seeding continued until 2006. The work accomplished supports the approved reclamation plan of backfilling of mine pits, elimination of depressions that could impound significant quantities of water, establishment of stable post-mining slopes and drainage configuration, and establishment of a stable, self-sustaining vegetation community consistent with the post-mining land use of wildlife habitat.

The Two Bull Ridge Mine permit was initially issued October 23, 1997 and consists of a 2,522-acre mine site and is located approximately five (5) miles northeast of Healy, Alaska. The mine is located within: Township 11 South, Range 7 West, Sections 26-28 and 32-35, Fairbanks Meridian; and Township 12 South, Range 7 West, Sections 3-5, Fairbanks Meridian. Land affected by this request for final bond release is owned by the State of Alaska. The Two Bull Ridge Mine permit was last renewed on October 4, 2016, for a 5th permit term. The Division of Mining, Land & Water approved the Phase I Bond Release of the 48.2 acres within the Two Bull Ridge Permit area on July 28, 2016.

Copies of the bond release request are available for review at the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water, 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 920, Anchorage, AK 99501-3577, and at the Department's Fairbanks office at 3700 Airport Way, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709, or at our website <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/mining/coal/two-bull/>

Any person with a valid legal interest that might be adversely affected by this proposal or any federal, state, or municipal agency that has jurisdiction may submit written comments or objections concerning this proposal, and may also request, in writing, a public hearing under AS 27.21.170(g). Comments may be sent to Russell Kirkham by mail at the Anchorage address above, fax to (907) 269-8950, or by e-mail to coalprogram@alaska.gov with the subject, "Two Bull Mine Bond Release" The deadline for comments and request for a public hearing is 5:00 p.m., May 9, 2019