

### **Public Notice**

Peabody Natural Resources Company (“PNRC”), PO Box 757, Grants, NM 87020, has filed an application for Phase 1 bond release, completion of final backfilling and grading on lands within the Lee Ranch Mine, 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, 1981 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-acre permit area dated April 5, 2016. PNRC is requesting release of \$785,126.89 of the performance bond should this application be approved by the Director of MMD.

Phase 1 of the approved reclamation plan; backfilling and grading was completed on areas included in the application between 2016 and 2022. Backfilling and grading 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 use of livestock grazing. Reclamation results are tracked in Annual Reclamation Reports submitted to MMD. The total area requested for Phase 1 2022 release are within Sections 23, 25-28, 35, and 36 in Township 15N and Range 8W, Sections 30 and 31 in Township 15N and Range 7W, and Section 1 in Township 14N and Range 8W. The USGS 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle sheets covering the area include “Tinaja”, “Mulatto”, and “Piedra”.

A copy of the Phase 1 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.emnrd.nm.gov](http://www.emnrd.nm.gov) Coal Mine Reclamation Program page. 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.