

BOND RELEASE IN MONTANA; PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE¹

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Abstract: In the 38 year history of the Montana Coal program, the emphasis on Bond Release has never been greater than it is now. This presentation focuses on: 1) the chronology of bonding costs; 2) bond release application rates; and, 3) programmatic influences on the bond release process in Montana. We have all heard the statements about the increased costs of obtaining and maintaining a bond, but how much does it really cost? With the increased cost of bonding, what tools are available to industry to minimize the bonding expense while still adhering to regulatory requirements? What options are available to the regulatory agency to minimize the impacts of bonding? Montana's thoughts and ideas for answering these questions will be presented. Also, photos of some very creative reclamation will be shown.

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