

HOT RESEARCH TOPICS ADDRESSING BOND RELEASE AT SURFACE COAL MINES IN THE WESTERN UNITED STATES¹

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Abstract: Bond release for successful mine reclamation is critical objective at almost all surface coal mines in the United States. Hundreds of millions of dollars, environmental quality, and corporate, as well as personal reputations are at stake. Many different technical issues have contributed to difficulties in achieving of Bond Release at surface coal mines in the western U.S. since enactment of SMCRA in 1977 from revegetation problems to soils issues to topographic reconstruction. Research on problematic mineland reclamation issues over the past 30 years has lead to many solutions and resulted in much more timely bond release than occurred in the past. This presentation will discuss current and recent past research conducted to address issues that create problems in Bond Release in the western United States.

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