

Alaskan Active Coal Mine Reclamation-Two Bull Ridge¹

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Abstract: Usibelli Coal Mine (UCM) located in Healy Alaska, has completed several large reclamation projects within the Two Bull Ridge (TBR) Permit area in support of achieving additional acres of bond release. 2021 was an outstanding year for the mine and four major projects were completed in support of final reclamation of the site. The first project was the Two Bull (TB) Channel which saw the installation of 17 sets of wingwalls, riprap placement for slope armoring and hydroseeding of 6 acres within the main drainage channel. The second project was the construction of a new sediment settling pond which helped control stormwater runoff during the channel project and will serve a long-term use of regulating stormwater flows within the drainage system. The third project was the regrade and aerial seeding of roughly 100 acres which drain into the TB Channel, which is ongoing into 2022. Accelerating the bond release timeline for the entire TB permit area has been a goal for UCM and these three projects are instrumental in this effort. UCM has applied for final Phase III bond release for a significant portion of the TBR permit acreage in close proximity to the active reclamation areas after successfully completing the required two-year vegetation diversity and cover density studies and should receive approval in 2022 from the State of Alaska Division of Natural Resources.

Additional Key Words: environmental

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 3. Work reported here was conducted near 63°55'6.62" N; 148°55'4.51" W.