



August 10, 2012

To: Distribution List

**PUBLIC NOTICE
FINAL FINDINGS OF FACT AND DECISION
WISHBONE HILL COAL EXPLORATION PERMIT APPLICATION**

The State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW) has reviewed a request from Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc., 634 South Bailey Street, Suite 204, Palmer, Alaska 99654, to renew their Wishbone Hill coal exploration permit for an additional two year period. Department is issuing a written Findings of Fact and Decision in compliance with the requirements of 11 AAC 90.907(h) and AS 27.21.030 and AS 27.21.100 for a coal exploration application.

The proposed exploration activities are located approximately eight miles northeast of Palmer near the Buffalo/Soapstone Community and are within all or parts of Sections 13, 14, 22-28, Township 19 North, Range 2 East and Sections 2, 3, 7-11, 15-19, Township 19 North, Range 3 East, Seward Meridian.

Authorized exploration activities will consist of drilling up to 25 exploration drill holes, geologic surface mapping and the construction of 0.6 acres of trail extensions. All drill sites will be reclaimed and all drill holes not retained as hydrologic monitoring wells would be sealed immediately upon completion of work at the site. All equipment used on site will be removed upon completion of the exploration program.

Pursuant to 11 AAC 90.167(b) the Division has determined that a reclamation bond in the initial amount of \$47,457.00 is sufficient to cover the associated reclamation costs. Detailed bond calculations are in the permit application.

The application complies with the requirements of the Alaska Surface Coal Mining Control and Reclamation Act (AS 27.21 and 11 AAC 90).

The Final Findings of Facts and Decision are available for review at the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water, 550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 920, Anchorage, AK 99501-3577, or on our website (www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/mining/index.htm). The applicant or a person with an interest which is or may be adversely affected by this decision may request in writing a hearing under AS 27.21.150 to review the reasons for this decision. The request for a hearing may be mailed or delivered to Daniel S. Sullivan, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources, 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1400, Anchorage, AK 99501; faxed to 907.269.8918; or sent by electronic mail to dnr.appeals@alaska.gov. The request for a hearing must be received within 30 days after the applicant is notified of this decision; the request must be received by 5:00 p.m. of September 10, 2012.