

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**15 July 2010**

**ORDER GRANTING CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT  
UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**James River Coal Company**

**File No. 0-51129 -- CF# 24760**

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James River Coal Company submitted an application under Rule 24b-2 requesting confidential treatment for information it excluded from the Exhibits to a Form 10-K filed on February 26, 2010.

Based on representations by James River Coal Company that this information qualifies as confidential commercial or financial information under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4), the Division of Corporation Finance has determined not to publicly disclose it. Accordingly, excluded information from the following exhibit(s) will not be released to the public for the time period(s) specified:

Exhibit 10.8	through December 31, 2011
Exhibit 10.8A	through December 31, 2011
Exhibit 10.9A	through December 31, 2012

For the Commission, by the Division of Corporation Finance, pursuant to delegated authority:

Timothy S. Levenberg  
Special Counsel