

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR MINOR REVISION  
COAL AND URANIUM PROGRAM  
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

COMPANY NAME: Westmoreland Resources, Inc.    DATE: March 19, 2010

OPERATING PERMIT# : 85005

MR#: MR10-05-03

LOCATION: Absaloka Mine, Big Horn County

Type and Purpose of Action: Installation of a potable water supply well. Targeted aquifer is the Fox Hills Formation, with anticipated completion at 1,000 feet or deeper. The current potable water source is from a well completed in the Madison Formation, at a depth of more than 3,000 feet. Water from this source is hot, must be pumped to a cooling pond, and has a high concentration of total dissolved solids that requires treatment. As the water must be pumped into a pond to cool, the potable supply is considered surface water by the Public Water Supply Program and must undergo frequent testing.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures: No potential impacts are anticipated. According to a well search on the Groundwater Information Center, the proposed well will be completed hundreds of feet below nearby supply wells.

Alternative Actions: Not install the well and continue to use the current supply from the Madison Formation – resulting in increased monitoring as noted above.

Prepared by: Angela McDannel

Title: Groundwater Hydrologist