

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

COMPANY NAME: Westmoreland Resources Inc.

DATE: 6/28/2010

OPERATING PERMIT#: 85005

MR#: 10-05-06

LOCATION: Absaloka Mine

Type and Purpose of Action:

Westmoreland Resources Inc. (WRI) proposed to revise the wetland mitigation and drainage reclamation plan for East Coulee tributaries above Pond 28. The plan would change from numerous regular alternating 'point bar' dams to a series of fewer shallow depressions more closely approximating premine characteristics (Exhibit B-24).

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

No additional impacts are expected with this revision over the previous plan. Approval of this reclamation plan is expected to result in an improved, more natural reclamation design more closely approximating premine topographic, hydrologic and wetland characteristics.

Alternative Actions:

Alternative actions could be to keep the operator's previous reclamation plan unchanged, leaving more artificial reclamation structures; or other design and reclamation approaches, with unknown results. Some other geomorphic design methods would also be acceptable.

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Title: Surface Water Hydrologist