

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

COMPANY NAME: Western Energy Company – Area D

DATE: 7/6/2010

OPERATING PERMIT#: 86003D

MR#: 03-03-02D

LOCATION: Rosebud Mine Area D

Type and Purpose of Action:

Western Energy Company (WECO) proposed to revise the postmine topography (PMT) and associated issues, including the revegetation and sediment control plans for Area D (see December 10, 2009 WECO letter, previous and follow-up correspondence). The plan would update the previous PMT to address updated mine plan and spoil balance information and to approximate premine topographic and drainage basin characteristics.

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 updated reclamation design that approximates premine topographic characteristics, and updated drainage control plans providing appropriate sediment control.

Alternative Actions:

No alternative actions were proposed. However, the operator did adjust its plan to address DEQ technical deficiency comments. An alternative action could also have included no approval, with no change to the operator's previous reclamation plan, though that would not adequately address updated mine plan and spoil balance conditions.

Prepared by: Tom Golnar
Title: Surface Water Hydrologist