

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

COMPANY NAME: Westmoreland Resources, Inc

DATE: August 18, 2010

OPERATING PERMIT#: SMP 85005

MR#: 10-05-05

LOCATION: Absaloka Mine

Type and Purpose of Action:

Westmoreland Resources, Inc. submitted a request for a minor revision to the permit to modify the rail loop. Modifications would include: the addition of approximately 1880 feet of additional track for the life-of-mine and a new weigh scale bridge. An additional 950 feet of track would be constructed on temporary bases if the weigh bridge is constructed. All track would be constructed immediately adjacent to existing track. Additional cut and fill work would accompany construction.

The modifications would increase flexibility for unit train loading, loading of odd-lots (small volume customers), and add storage for rail cars not meeting the required shipment specifications.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

Approximately 10 acres of additional disturbance would occur. The temporary track will be reclaimed promptly after the new weigh scale bridge is in use. All other disturbance would be reclaimed upon completion of mining with the rest of the rail loop. Changes to the plan would have less than 0.1 % effect on the bond and well within the contingencies; however, the line item for the rail loop would be updated at the time of the mid-permit review.

Alternative Actions:

Impacts are negligible therefore no alternatives, other than the no action alternative, were considered.

Prepared by: Peter Mahrt  
Title: Mine Engineer