

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

COMPANY NAME: Western Energy Coal Company      DATE: November 1, 2010

OPERATING PERMIT#: 84003B

MR#: 10-03-02B

LOCATION: Rosebud Area B Mine

Type and Purpose of Action:

The mine operator is requesting approval for modifications to the current hydrologic monitoring network by updating a surface water monitoring site with new equipment. Surface water site SW-75 is located on East Fork Armells Creek west of Area B West and north of the county road. The surface water monitoring station would be updated with an In-Situ Level Troll 500 pressure sensor with data recorder and software. The water sample bottle collection would be updated with three one-liter Nalgene storm water samplers. A 3-ft by 9-ft 9-in Plasti-Fab flume with a 60-degree V-notch would be installed. The existing crest gage would remain in place, with the other old equipment removed.

Equipment chosen for the modification are based upon a July 13, 2010 meeting and follow-up discussions between the Department, WECO and Nicklin Earth and Water.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

No potential negative impacts are anticipated as a result of changes made to the permit. The proposed changes will increase data reliability and provide representative documentation for the entire mine.

Alternative Actions:

No alternatives, other than no action, were considered.

Prepared by: MM/TG

Title: MPDES Specialist/Surface Water Hydrologist