

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

COMPANY NAME: Westmoreland Savage Corp. DATE: November 29, 2010

OPERATING PERMIT#: 84002 MR#: MR10-02-04

LOCATION: Savage Mine, T. 20 N., R. 57 E. Section 21

Type and Purpose of Action:

Westmoreland Savage Corporation (WSC) has requested a variance to MCA 82-4-227(7)(a) which does not allow the operator to conducting mining operations within 300 feet of an occupied dwelling without the consent of the owner. The operator has received the necessary consent. Approval of the MR will allow the mine to reduce the disturbance limit to 150 feet from the dwelling and allow additional coal to be mined.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

The action is in large part administrative, however, a small amount of additional mining will take place. The additional mining will entail additional disturbance estimated at less than 2 acres. The additional acreage to be disturbed is currently cultivated with no outstanding wildlife habitat or resources being involved. The additional mining and associated disturbance will take place consistent with currently permitted mining practices.

Alternative Actions:

The impacts of the action are expected to be negligible and no alternative actions have been considered.

Prepared by: David Adair

Title: Mining Engineer