

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

COMPANY NAME: Westmoreland Savage Corp. DATE: December 9, 2010

OPERATING PERMIT#: 84002 MR#: MR10-02-03

LOCATION: Savage Mine, T. 20 N., R. 57 E. Section 28

Type and Purpose of Action:

Westmoreland Savage Corporation (WSC) has requested approval for an additional mining pass in Pits 3 and 4. The mining cut would be approximately 100 feet wide, 100 feet in depth and 4350 feet in length. The additional cut would allow for the maximum coal recovery in the permit area. The mining would be conducted in a manner consistent with past practices and in accordance with existing permit requirements. The MR would not increase the permitted area of the mine but would entail approximately 10 acres of additional land disturbance. The MR also requests a variance from ARM 17.24,518 which specifies a 100 foot buffer zone to adjacent property lines to 50 feet. The variance is acceptable to the affected property owner.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

The action will increase land disturbance by approximately 10 acres. The area is immediately adjacent to land currently being or previously mined. The additional impact associated with mining this particular acreage is expected to be negligible. The land affected is marginally cultivated currently and does not possess any special qualities or values. The land will be reclaimed in accordance with the environmental commitments and permit requirements currently in place. Given the fairly fixed annual rate of coal production at this mine this disturbance will either be offset by lesser disturbance at another location or increase the life of the mine.

Alternative Actions:

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

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Title: Mining Engineer