

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

COMPANY NAME: Western Energy Company

DATE: May 21, 2012

PERMIT#: C1986003D

REVISION NO: MR71

LOCATION: Northeast Area D

Type and Purpose of Action:

The operator wants to add two monitoring wells to Area D to monitor spoil and the aquifer below the lowest coal seam mined. These wells replace wells that existed prior to mining in the Rosebud, McKay and underburden aquifers. The Rosebud and McKay were removed during mining and replaced with backfill (spoil), which is monitored to assess the water level and water quality of this unit.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

Existing roads and trails will be used to access the drill sites. Drill cuttings will be spread to less than ½ inch. No other potential impacts are anticipated.

Alternative Actions:

No alternatives were considered.

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Title: Hydrologist