

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

COMPANY NAME: Western Energy Company

DATE: October 8, 2012

PERMIT#: C1986003D

REVISION NO: MR73

LOCATION: Western Energy Area D, T2N, R41E, NE1/4 S23, Rosebud Co.

Type and Purpose of Action:

The purpose of this minor revision to the permit is to upgrade the design for sediment Pond PO-80A. A new design is required for the increased drainage area approved as part of a post mine topography revision (MR 03-03-02D). The newly constructed pond will capture runoff and provide sediment storage for the basin as vegetation is reestablished. The proposed pond will provide sediment control for approximately 128 acres of partially vegetated area and have a storage capacity approximately 10.24 ac-ft. The embankment will be approximately 10 feet in height.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

The construction of the pond embankment will require excavation and placement of earthen fill. During construction and until the embankment is vegetated potential exists for sediment runoff from the disturbed area. The mine permit already obligates the operator to use of BTCA practices for temporary sediment control. The pond will be removed and the site reclaimed per existing commitments once the upstream basin is adequately revegetated.

Alternative Actions:

The pond is needed to provide an environmental protection.

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