

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

COMPANY NAME: Westmoreland Savage Corp

DATE: April 16, 2013

PERMIT#: C1984002

REVISION NO: MR49

LOCATION: Savage Mine, Richland Co.

Type and Purpose of Action:

The MR requests approval for updated designs for a series of three existing sediment ponds. In order to make the ponds compliant with the ARMs the upstream pond embankment will be raised several feet and an excavated spillway added. Another pond will have the drop inlet spillway pipe lowered several feet enabling it to pass the 25 year, 24 hour precipitation event safely.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

These ponds have been in place for a number of years and provide sediment protection for the downstream drainage. The function of the improvements is to make sure the pond embankments have an adequate margin of safety against overtopping, failure and loss of sediment.

Raising the embankment and improving the earthen spillway will require a small amount of earth work with the associated disturbance. Two other sediment ponds are currently in place downstream of the disturbance site. The mine permit currently commits the mine to BTCA sediment control practices and reclamation of the drainage once the ponds are no longer needed.

Alternative Actions:

None considered.

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