

**DEQ OPENCUT MINING PROGRAM**  
**SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**Proponent:** Wyo-Ben, Inc. Requesting Amendment #1

**Site:** Wyo-Ben Montana

**Legal:** SW of the SW Section 29, T9S, R26E

**County:** Carbon

**Approved Permit and Amendment #'s:** WBI-001

**Type and Purpose of Action:** Operator has applied to increase the permit area by 40 acres for a total of 246.3 acres, and remove an additional 130,000 cubic yards. A new map was submitted with this application. The letter of credit for \$130,000 is sufficient to cover the increased obligation. Only \$110,051 is required for the entire 246.3 acres permitted. The annual report itemizes specific costs based upon the BLM/DEQ guidelines. The final reclamation date would be January 2011.

**Potential Impacts and Mitigation:** The amendment area will not cause significant impacts on the physical environment or human population.

This amendment area is adjacent to ACC's Permit 00082. Small, 2 to 4-acre pits are opened, then backfilled with overburden, usually within 1 year. Because of the swell factor of the disturbed clay overburden, the backfilled overburden is sufficient to fill the entire pit. No depression is left.

Wyo-Ben uses a "pitter" to dress and seed the topsoil. This equipment leaves the site covered with square-foot depressions that capture almost all precipitation. This is very important because the average annual precipitation is less than 6 inches.

Proponent will be legally bound by his permit to reclaim the site. The original Environmental Assessment is applicable to this action.

Prepared by Jo Stephen 12/06

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Neil Harrington, Chief, Industrial and Energy Minerals Bureau,

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Date