

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

COMPANY NAME: Western Energy Company

DATE: November 14, 2012

PERMIT#: C1986003A

REVISION NO: MR65

LOCATION: WECO Area A, T2N, R41E, S31, Rosebud Co.

Type and Purpose of Action:

This MR is largely administrative as no construction or physical alteration would be involved. There currently exists a haul road embankment surrounding the active mining area which also serves to impound runoff. The Operator is proposing to define the haul road as a pond embankment in the mining permit.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

No construction would be involved to approve the designation of the impoundment as a sediment pond. Since no culverts were installed to allow the passage of runoff, the resulting impoundment is accurately defined as a water retention structure. There may be differences in how reclamation takes place. The embankment is a massive fill and likely contains material in excess of that required for a sediment pond during later reclamation. The reclamation process would likely involve a reduction of the embankment size once the haul road is no longer needed. This later change would be approved through the minor revision process.

Alternative Actions:

This is the reasonable alternative. The action brings the function of the embankment more correctly in line with the administrative rules

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