



**Montana Department of  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

Brian Schweitzer, Governor

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October 18, 2010

Mr. Dave Kuzara  
Permit Coordinator  
Westmoreland Resources Inc.  
P.O. Box 449  
Hardin, MT 59034

Permit: 85005  
Reference: Amendment Application 00186, Completeness Determination

Dear Dave:

The Department has completed its administrative completeness review of Application #00186. This application is for an amendment to SMP 85005 to add additional coal reserves and mining in an area referred to as Tract III West. Westmoreland Resources, Inc.'s responses of May 9, 2010 and September 10, 2010, adequately addressed our completeness deficiency concerns. Application #00186 is hereby found to be administratively complete.

Westmoreland may proceed with publishing the public notice and file a copy of the application at the Big Horn County Library, Hardin, Montana [ARM 17.24.401(6)]. Prior to publishing the public notice, please make edits to the Public Notice as indicated in my e-mail of October 18, 2010.

Pursuant to 82-4-231(5), MCA, the Department has also determined that an environmental impact statement (EIS) on Application #00186 is not required. An EIS was completed in 2008 for Major Revision Application #00181 and the permit application for the South Extension Mine. An EA to supplement the EIS will be developed for Application #00186.

Please feel free to contact the Department with any questions regarding Application #00186. The Department is proceeding with the review of the application for acceptability.

Sincerely,

Chris A. Yde, Supervisor  
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Industrial and Energy Minerals Bureau  
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C: Jeff Fleischman, OSM, Casper  
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FC: 620.303 (Amendment Application 00186)

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