

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Western Energy Company, a Montana corporation with offices west of Colstrip, Montana has filed a request a bond release request for Final reclamation work in Area A of the Rosebud Mine near Colstrip, Montana under the Montana Strip and Underground Mine Reclamation Act and Permanent Regulatory Program as allowed under Law 82.4.235 and 50-1045, RCM for lands disturbed for mining prior to 5-3-1978. The Rosebud Mine – Area A surface mine permit C1986003A was originally approved on September 2, 1986.

The proposed release area, containing 514 acres more or less, is located within portions of the following legal descriptions:

Area A: Rosebud County

<u>Township, Range</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Legal Description</u>
T1N, R41E	3	NW ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄
	4	SW ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄ , SE ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄ , N ¹ / ₂ N ¹ / ₂
	5	NE ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄
T2N, R41E	28	SW ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄
	33	S ¹ / ₂ , NW ¹ / ₄
	34	SW ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄

No monetary release of the reclamation bond is sought at this time. Currently the Area A reclamation bond is \$19,120,740. All backfill, regrade, soil placement and revegetation have been completed in accordance with the approved plan. All drill holes have been properly abandoned. The lands submitted for bond release have a stable landscape, are not contributing excessive amounts of suspended solids to runoff outside the permit boundary, have noxious weeds under control and have demonstrated substantial post-mine usefulness in the form of wildlife usage and cattle grazing.

The application is available for inspection at the Department of Environmental Quality offices in Helena (2001 11th Avenue, Building B), and Billings (1371 Rimtop Drive, Building IP09, Airport Industrial Park), and at the Rosebud County Library, Forsyth, Montana. Electronic copies of the application may be requested by visiting the website <http://www.deq.mt.gov/ea/coal.mcp> or by emailing DEQCoal@mt.gov.

Written comments, objections, or requests for informal conferences may be submitted by any person with an interest that is or may be adversely affected within 30 days of the last published announcement to the Department of Environmental Quality, Coal and Uranium Program, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901 or by emailing <http://svc.mt.gov/deq/publiccomment/> within 30 days of the final publication of this notice.

Date, Date, Date, Date