

Westmoreland Resources, Inc. (WRI), owns and operates the Absaloka Mine, located in Big Horn County, Montana, under Surface Mining Permit No. C1985005 (renewed 02-01-13) issued by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and Federal Permit No. MT-0007F (renewed 02-01-13) issued by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM). On May 2, 2016, WRI submitted to the agencies an application for partial release of bond liability on 1939 acres of land on which Phase III reclamation has been completed. The application was declared administratively complete on May 31, 2016. These lands are within the following described areas:

Township 1 North, Range 37 East MPM:

Section 24: S1/2N1/2, S1/2

Section 25: E1/2, NW1/4

Section 26: NE1/4

Section 36: N1/2, N1/2S1/2

Township 1 North, Range 38 East MPM:

Section 19 S1/2NW1/4, NE1/4, S1/2

Section 20 W1/2

Section 29 NW1/4, W1/2SW1/4, W1/2W1/2NE1/4

Section 30 All

Section 31 N1/2, W1/2SW1/4

Township 1 South, Range 38 East MPM:

Section 4 E1/2NW1/4, W1/2NE1/4, NE1/4NE1/4SW1/4

The area described is within the Wolf School U.S. Geological Survey Quadrangle Map.

Phase III reclamation includes meeting the revegetation criteria applicable to and consistent with the approved postmining land use pursuant to ARM 17.24.116(6)(c). These activities were completed on the above described lands in accordance with the Montana Strip and Underground Mine Reclamation Act, the rules adopted there under and the approved mining and reclamation plan and permit for Absaloka Mine.

Present bond liability for Absaloka Mine is \$23,295,786.00. The purpose of the bond release request is to document the progress of reclamation by WRI.

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). Electronic copies of the application may be requested by visiting the website <http://deq.mt.gov/Public/ea/coal> 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 electronically at <http://svc.mt.gov/deq/publiccomment/> within 30 days of the final publication of this notice.